took his place there last week. I mentioned this to him, but lest it should escape his recollection, be kind enough to remind him of it. I would on no account stay here, if any of my Places were to be missed on that account

Messrs. Wood & Wentheas(?),
Marsden Square,
Manchester.

Paid.

MACCLESFIELD
167

o'clock

few days longer. Will you be kind
enough to speak to the Preachers; or one
of them, on the subject, & ask if I am
right in supposing that I may be spared:
It will be too late for you to answer me
by the next Post: But you will much
oblige me by writing a few lines, &
wrapping them up in brown Paper, so
as to make a Parcel, which may be
forwarded to me tomorrow afternoon
by the Telegraph. I shall then have
your answer by half past six o'clock;
& if Mr Griffith deem it necessary that
I should be at my Post, I will take
the Mail, & come to Manchester without
delay: Or, if there be no place on the Mail, I
will borrow a Horse, & be in Town early on
Sunday Morning. On the other hand, if you
can procure me leave of absence, I shall
be thankful, & may probably tarry

here three or four days. Direct the Parcel to me, to be left at the Inn where the Coach stops, till called for. —

My dear wife is well. She & Mr. Burton (who arrived here in safety) join me in love to you & to all friends.

Expecting your reply, I remain

Most affect.ly Yours,

J. Bunting.

P.S. Pray write by the Telegraph at all events, whether I am wanted or not; that I may be sure there is no mistake.

If I come by the Mail, I shall be under the necessity of troubling you for half a Bed.

I had forgot another thing. Whether I tarry here or come home, I shall fully expect Mr. Leach to supply Bridgwater St. next Tuesday; as I

Mr. Wood

To Mr. Wood.

Macclesfield.
Friday Evening.

My dear Friend,

You will be surprized to receive a Letter from me; but I have had so many proofs of your active friend=ship, that when I need a favour, you are one of the first persons I think of asking for it.

I had fully proposed to be at home tomorrow afternoon, in order to take my place on Sunday. But I have just learned that Mr. Griffith is by this time arrived in Manchester. Now, if Messrs. Wood, Griffith, & Leach are all with you, you can spare me another Sabbath without any incon-venience: And I need not say it will be a gratification to me to tarry with my Wife and Friends in Macclesfield a

night in hope of a Letter, but was disap-
-pointed. As soon as I receive one, I will
write to her again.

Some changes have taken place
to night in the Stationing Committee:
Mr Barber is put down for Sheffield; Mr
Myles for Liverpool; and Mr Marsden as
Superintend.t of Stockport. The Stations have
been simply read in Conference; but
not a word said about them. Many
alterations must be made; but I think
Mr Griffith will stand for you.

Joseph Cooke's case was finally
decided this morning. Every method
was used to reclaim him, publicly and
privately, but completely in vain.
He declared that he would abide by &
maintain <u>every</u> <u>sentiment</u> contained
in his Sermons. It was then resolved
that while Mr C. maintains them

Sentiments, he cannot be consid.d
as a Member of this Body.

I must conclude; as it is near 10 o'clock: Present my love to Mrs Wood; and to all friends; and believe me to be with unabated esteem

Your obliged & faithf.l Fr.d

J. Bunting

Leeds. Friday Even[g]

My dear Friend,

I at length inclose the promised Answer to the Scales. You will consult Mr. John Burton; who will, I suppose, give you the necessary information how to proceed. Mr. Burton at whose Inn I write this, wishes 500 Copies to be struck off immediately.

My dear Sarah will have informed you ~~that~~ I am Assistant Secretary to the Conference. This must be my apology for not writing to you. I am almost overwhelmed with bustle & hurry; and shall be glad to get home again. But the time is not yet. And I have cause to be thankful, that notwithstanding my fatigues, I enjoy good health.

Be so good as to tell my dear Wife that I am well, & ~~that~~ I went to the Post Office to

afflictive character of such a dispensation of Divine Providence. Yes, my dear Friend, — "It is the Lord's doing"; and He "does all things" rightly, wisely, graciously, and in one word "Well". To submit with humble acquiescence to his perfect will is our duty; but it is our privilege also to cherish a steadfast & confiding persuasion that "all things work together for good" to his people; and that "what we know not now, we shall know", and even thankfully approve, "hereafter".

But you need not to have these general principles suggested to your mind. They have long been established in your convictions, and familiar to your daily thinkings. The great point now is, to have them made experimentally & practically efficient; & to be enabled fully to realize the mental repose & comfort which such precious truths involve. For this realizing result we must have recourse to God himself. To Him therefore I most affectionately

commend you and your dear family. "In the multitude of your thoughts within you, may Thy comforts delight your souls!" May the "secret refreshings" of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, cheer & sustain your inmost spirits! May every bereave-ment be sanctified to the high purposes of improve-ment in personal holiness, and of full preparation for that better world, where "Pain, and Grief, & Toil will cease, And all be calm, & joy & peace!"

I beg you to make my affectionate regards & condolences acceptable to Dr. & Mrs Wood, Mr. & Mrs J. Fernley, and to Miss Wood, & Miss Hannah Wood. God bless them all!

I am always,

My very dear Friend,

Yours most faithfully,

Jabez Bunting

Amwell St
1py P. Paid

The Rev. John Boyd,

PAID
6 MR 26
1845

Wesleyan Minister,

Barnstaple.

Paid.

BARNSTAPLE
MR 27
1845

1/4

London: April 24. 1847.

My ever dear Friend,

I cannot adequately express to you the depth & tenderness of my sympathy with your painful feelings on the mournful event, of which I received the intelligence on ~~Thursday~~ Friday Morning. My first strong impulse was to have hastened to meet you at Leamington, for the purpose of spending one or two sorrowful hours with you, and of endeavouring to offer some measure of friendly & christian consolation. But I found that the extreme pressure of anxious public duties rendered it impossible to accomplish that first desire of my heart. I could therefore only pray for you to Him who is the God of all comfort; & assure you, by a message which, not knowing where a Letter to yourself would first then reach you, I desired Percy to deliver to you, of my heart-felt condolence. I have been called, as you know, to pass through circumstances very similar to those in which you are now placed; and can therefore well appreciate the

Mrs B. joins me in kind regards to your family-circle, and in very respectful acknowledgmts & remembrances, as to yourself. Pray for me, my dear Friend, & be assured that I am, as ever,

Yours affect-ly & faithfully,

Jabez Bunting.

James Wood, Esqr.,
Grove-House,
Oxford Road,
Manchester.

Stamped

MANCHESTER
SP 22
1844
A

London. March 26. 1845.

My dear Brother,

I wrote to Mr. Mundy at Bath last Saturday, believing that a young man at Bath, on my List of Reserve, was likely to suit Barnstaple, & the distance, & expense of travelling, would not have been very great. This morning only, I have heard, that he now declines coming out into our itinerancy. To day I have written to Mr. Culchette at Lewes, desiring that Brother Wm. R. Clarke, also on my List, may be sent to your help instantly. I have very strongly urged the necessity for promptitude; but I fear it is scarcely possible that he can be with you till after next ~~week~~ Sunday. I have desired him, if he can ~~possibly~~ embrace the opening, to write to you by first Post, & tell you when you may expect him. — I hope this effort will be more successful than the former one; and with kind regards to Mrs. B. & family, & to all our esteemed friends at Barnstaple, am, though in much haste,

My dear Brother,

Yrs very affectly,

Jabez Bunting.

year more than ever involved in public occupations, and perplexities, and responsibilities, to which I am both in body & mind greatly inadequate. I sigh for quiet, but cannot attain to it.

As I thought it my duty, under all circumstances, to resolve on attending the next Quarterly Committee at Didsbury, I have, as you know, other business to look after in Lancashire. I promised Mr Lomas, simply because you desired it, to supply Ancoats Chapel on Sunday, October 6th. He now desires that one of the Services should be in Oxford Road Chapel on that day. My whole physical & moral nature shrinks exceedingly from an engagement so much more public, & more formidable to my now shattered nerves, than the ~~one~~ one originally proposed to me. I greatly prefer the whole day at Ancoats. If you can satisfactorily leave the matter so, I hope that, in sheer pity to me, you will. If not, I cannot

refuse your persevering solicitation. But in that case, let me be at Oxford Road in the forenoon and at Ancoats in the evening.

I have little or no hope of reaching Manchester before the Saturday Night. Our Richmond Quarterly Commtee. happens to fall on the 3rd. of October; and I am otherwise worked, if not to death, yet to distraction. If you can settle it with Percy, who, I believe expects me, I shall have pleasure in being your quiet guest on Saturday & Sunday Evenings, Oct. 5 & 6, & part of Monday the 7th. — Birkenhead, Liverpool, & Didsbury, as far as I can now calculate, must have the remainder of my time in Lancashire. My health greatly needs a short rural or sea-side retirement from all work of all sorts. I have been seeking it for nearly two years; but have only been able to get about six days of such refreshment, at occasional intervals, in all that time; & now my way to it appears to be more blocked up than ever. — Mrs. Bunting is greatly obliged by your invitation; but will not be able to accept it. Her Daughter, still an invalid, though better, has again been ordered to Brighton.

to give our love to our folks in Nelson
Street's if you see any of them soon.

James Wood, Esq.
of Grove-House;
at Messrs. Wortheads,
Piccadilly,
Manchester.

Stamped

MANCHESTER JU 14 184 A

R JU 13

London, Sept. 21. 1844

My very dear Friend,

I thank you sincerely for your kind Note of the 17th instant; but should have been glad if you had given me some particulars about your state of health. I have been happy to hear generally from some other quarters that you are, on the whole, better; and earnestly pray that it may please God yet to spare you to us all, in tolerable ease and comfort. Though I, like yourself, have been but an infrequent Correspondent, you are never long out of my thoughts; and my grateful affection towards you is unabated & strong. An occasional intercourse, in our declining years, such as we enjoyed in the early portion of our lives, would to me be most soothing and delightful. You are now providentially blessed with a comparative repose from ordinary toils & cares. I, very much against my judgment & my will, am this

you will, with your wonted goodness, allow me one meal in Nelson St., and a few hours with those of my flock who are there domiciled.

I was truly grateful to learn from Mr. Barton, Mr. J. Fernley, & Mr. J. D. Burton, that your general health is on the whole improved. God grant that the improvement may be progressive, and long-continued. Of myself I can say nothing very good. I was strangely better than usual, for about six weeks from the ~~beginning of~~ end of April; but for ten days past have been receding; partly owing to the anxiety & toil connected with this vile "Dissenters' Chapel Bill." I fear it must pass; but there is some hope of modifying the 2d. & 3d. Clauses; — yet not much. One modification, of considerable value to us as Wesleyans, we have already induced Sir Wm. Follett to insert, on his Official authority, in the 2d. Clause, as passed through the Committee pro formâ on Monday last, & since printed. It goes to let in, as evidence of the Founder's intention, not merely, as at first, the "express terms" of a Deed, but also any reference, contained in a Deed, to any Book, Document, or Instrument, by which

that intention may be inferred. So far, so good for us; as the reference to Wesley's Notes & Sermons may thus be rendered distinctly available. But the measure is essentially bad, even as it now stands. I wish it could be defeated, if not very materially altered before the 3^d Reading. Could not your Mr Entwisle be again written to?

As my Lancashire Journey will be so very hurried, Mrs B., I believe, will not accompany me. But she is obliged by your invitation, & unites with me in affectionate regards to you and yo[urs]

I am always,

My very dear Friend,

Your obliged & faithf^l

Jabez Bunting

P.S. I must not forget to express my earnest hope that you will not either postpone or abridge your intended ramble, in consequence of the probability of my short & hasty sojourn in Manchester next week. I should be deeply grieved, if I could suppose that you would for a moment contemplate any change in your plans on my account. — Pleas[e]

James Wood. Esqr.

London. June 13. 1844.

My ever dear Friend,

Accept my warmest thanks for your kind invitation. It is only this day that my arrangements have become so far fixed, as to place me in a condition to give a specific answer.

I am to spend Sunday, June 23d., if the Lord will, at Macclesfield, & Sunday June 30th. at Liverpool; after which I must return home with all practicable rail-road speed.

The early portion of the week between those two Sabbaths I shall probably spend, partly, if I can, at Buxton, for the sake of one or two Baths, which the severe return of Rheumatism in my right knee makes desirable, & partly, on business at Liverpool. Thursday & Friday I must devote to the Didsbury Institution; so that I shall probably have only one night for Manchester, namely Wednesday, June 26th, when, if you be at home, I shall thankfully enjoy your offered hospitality, & a free Conversation with you, after the old fashion in happier days.

whose edification, as I always understood, it was chiefly designed. I cannot think with you that, however lamentable the delay, "the time has gone by". I have read, and re-read it, with many tears, and with much personal profit; & have sincerely regretted that so scanty a portion of her own Diary &c has been preserved. Had the Documentary materials been more abundant & more continuous, a valuable Book might have been produced. As it is, it strikes me that "Family Memorial" will be the best general Title that can be adopted.

The principal point, which I take the liberty of respectfully recommending to Dr. Wood, is that which I at first sight advised; namely, that the formal Division into Chapters should be withdrawn, as belonging rather to a Volume of considerable extent, than to a Memorial such as is now contemplated. Instead of this, I should suggest a series of successive Sections, numbered, but not separated from each other, except by the Number, by the short Headings or General Topics of each, put in small Capitals, and by what Printers call a Double Rule, placed at the end of each, allowing a good open space of White between each department, in

order to assist the eye & memory & distinct apprehension of the Reader. I fear I may not make myself fully understood; & therefore inclose a Slip of Paper, entitled "Order of Arrangement" &c, which may perhaps serve as a Specimen of what I think would be a useful improvement. The Printer should also be very exact in putting the Extracts from Diaries & Letters uniformly in the smaller type, reserving the larger Type for the Compiler's own statements & remarks.

I must now abruptly conclude. Perhaps it is too much to ask a line or two, to assure me that the Parcel has safely arrived; yet that would set my mind more at rest. We unite in very affectionate regards to yourself, Dr. Wood, & the whole of your family-circle. How is your health? I am always,

My very dear Friend,

Yours very gratefully,

Jabez Bunting.

L.S 10 JA 10 1844

James Wood, Esqr.,

Grove House,

Oxford Road,

Manchester.

Paid.

MANCHESTER JA 11 1844 A

London. Jan. 13. 1844.

My very dear Friend,

At last, I return Dr. Wood's M.S.S. — Few things in my long and much too busy life have grieved me more, than that I should have even seemed so long negligent in performing a duty of friendship towards you, and of grateful remembrance towards the dear departed One, which I willingly undertook, & hoped to have performed much earlier & much better. I could offer apologies & palliations; but I fear they could not without very lengthened statements, more tedious than satisfactory to you, be made very available. I must at once cast myself on the "love that endureth all things, & never faileth".

I have to day completed a second, or rather a third, Revision of the Papers. On the Printed portion, I have ventured to mark, chiefly with my Pencil, various suggestions for greater accuracy & order. This, however, I could not well do, as to those parts which are still in Manuscript. But I have carefully examined the whole; and give it as my decided opinion that, if properly printed & carefully arranged & corrected, it will be a most acceptable & valuable Memorial of Mrs. Wood's manifold excellencies; — acceptable & valuable, especially, to her surviving family, & immediate circle of friends, — for

soon. Till then forgive & pity me. May every blessing attend you & yours! With love to all, believe me

Your obliged & grateful Frd.,

Jabez Bunting.

be about the middle of next week.
Pray for me that I may come to
you in the fulness of the blessing of
the Gospel of Peace. My Sarah bore
her Journey hither pretty well, all
things considered: & I hope has not
materially suffered from it. She joins
me in love to you & Mrs Wood. Believe
me to be

Your obliged & affect. Frd

J. Bunting

Mr James Wood,
near the Infirmary Wall,
Falkner St
Manchester.

43
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167

Wesleyan Mission House,
Bishopsgate Street, Within.
London, Jan. 10. 1844.

My ever dear Friend,

So I hope you will in your clemency allow me still to address you, notwithstanding my sad, sad delinquency in the matter of the long-delayed MS.

I cannot now offer any apologies, however sustained by the facts of the case for my seeming negligence. I can only now say, that the MS. shall be returned, as you request, perhaps tomorrow, certainly in a day or two.

My present object is to thank you very warmly for your hospitable invitation to Grove-House; & to say, that the state of business at this House, & my state of health & anxiety, &c will not permit me to avail myself of it at present. The simple truth is, that I am fit for nothing just now; but must expend the little energy I have left, (and it is very little,) on objects nearer home. You will hear again from me very-

Now what I request of you is, to make enquiry into these matters, & if you find them to be as Mr. Jenkins supposes, to induce the Stewards to take proper steps immediately. Whatever is meant to be done in the way of white-washing &c, ought to be done as soon as Mr. Pipe leaves. About this I am the more anxious, because my dear Sarah, as you know, is not, & for some time will not be, in a state, in which she ought to be troubled with a bustle of that sort. Perhaps the furniture has been improved since Mr. Jenkins saw it; otherwise he represents it as by no means sufficient; & it is at his obliging suggestion that I write to solicit your

kind attention to the matter.

But observe, all this Mr Jenkins has said to me, and all this I write to you, most confidentially. I beg you will not mention to any body that I have said any thing on the subject. If you can serve my views without making known my application to you, I am sure you will: But if nothing can be done without a formal request from me, or an intimation that the request was first suggested by me, I had rather take things as they happen to be.

Pray write a line in answer as soon as possible, directed to me at Mr Macliardie's, Chestergate, Macclesfield. I have a great deal to say to you when we meet, which will probably

James Wood, Esqr.,
of Manchester,
at the George Inn,
Buxton

Paid.

PW Private. Manchester. Aug. 13.

My dear Friend,

I have written by this day's Post to Mr. Wood, my new Superintendant, to know which of the two houses in Manchester will be vacant for me, & when I may come to it. It is probable, I under-stand, that Mr. Reynolds will prefer Dale St.; and that Bridgwater St. will therefore fall to me. It is on this sup-position that I now write to request the assistance of your friendship on the occasion. Mr. Jenkins took me aside yesterday morning, before I left Sheffield, and informed me that the Bridgwater House ought by all means to be whitewashed & papered before we go into it, and that some parts of the Furniture, particularly the Chairs, are in great want of Repairs.

return of Post; — and say how you are.
With best love to Miss Wood & Miss Hannah, in which Mrs B. cordially unites, I am as ever,

My very dear Fd

Yours most affect.ly

J. Brewster

James Wood, Esq.,

Grove-House,

Oxford Road,

Manchester.

London. August 1.
1843.

My very dear Friend,

Disappointed in not seeing you at Sheffield a week ago, & much desiring an interview, I had resolved to go to Buxton yesterday. When almost on the point of setting out, I received a summons to London, Mrs Hale having become suddenly & alarmingly worse, & being supposed on Sunday to be in a dying state. We reached home at 11 last night. She has revived a little; but is in a hopeless state as to recovery. She may die at any hour; but may possibly live for a week. I write to ask how long you purpose to remain in Buxton, & what are your plans for the early part of this month. I must, if possible, return to the Conference by next Monday or Tuesday; and if you stay long at Buxton shall try to see you for a few hours. Favour me with a line by

ready ~~now~~, or on Tuesday, Wednesday, or even Thursday in this week, let it be sent to No. 30, Myddelton Square, and I will immediately attend to it. If later, perhaps it would be as well to let it meet me on my arrival in Sheffield, whenever that may occur. Or, if one Copy were sent, if not ready ~~for Wed~~ Wednesday night's post, to Myddelton Square, and another to Sheffield, that would be better still, to prevent delay.

With kindest love to Miss Wood & Miss Hannah, and sincere thanks for their kindness & yours, in which Mrs. B. cordially unites, I am always

My very dear Friend,

Most affect.ly Yrs.,

J. Bunting.

P. S.

Dr. Alder & I went to Wilds, Charingcross, last Thursday. He ordered the Globes, according to what he conceived to be your intentions. I have this day received a Note from Wild, saying that he has put the Order into a way of immediate completion; & that he has one of the Globes now ready, which he wishes me to inspect tomorrow. This I shall do; and I hope they will be sent to Dr. Woods by Thursday next.

James Wood, Esqr.,
Grove-House,
Oxford Road,
Manchester.

pd

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AP22
1845

London. July 17. 1843.

My ever dear Friend,

Three days after our arrival at home, Mrs Hale, the Aunt of my late dear wife, who has long been an Inmate of our family, was seized with a second or third attack of Paralysis. She now lies in a very enfeebled & precarious condition. Mr Hunter cannot at present judge whether she may probably rally for a few weeks or months, or whether death may very speedily ensue. This visitation makes all my plans uncertain; so that I can fix on nothing positive at present. I do very much wish, if I can leave with propriety, to be in Sheffield at some of the later Preparatory Committees, and at the Opening of the Con-ference; but I must wait on Providence. In any case, however, I shall be most happy to see the Proof you mention, and to offer any suggestion which occurs to me; though I have no doubt that Dr Wood's Sketch will be what it should be. If the Proof be

appear to have good hope, & even more than hope, that "mercy was sought, & mercy found."

And now, my dear Friend, I wish that I could assume & exercise with success, under the blessing of the Divine Spirit, the office of a Comforter to you & to yours. I have heard with the tenderest sympathy the intelligence of Mrs Wood's affliction, and of your own. I feel, from the bottom of my heart, for you both, and for your dear & estimable Daughters. I wish I were nearer to you, & could be allowed, for however brief a period, to mingle my tears with yours, and endeavour, in conjunction with you, to "encourage ourselves in the Lord our God." At any time but this, when we are within three days of the commencement of our Anniversary Services, I would assuredly have seen you

forthwith. Perhaps I may speedily run down to Manchester for a day or two; as I am advised that it will not be safe for me to be exposed to the bustle & excitement of our Meetings. Whether this wish be gratified or not, I shall daily & hourly think of you, and implore for you Heaven's best & choicest consolations in this dark & cloudy day. In the midst of all, "This God is our God": and "He doeth all things well".

"The storms of wintery Time shall soon be past,
And one unbounded Spring encircle all".

To dear Mrs Wood I beg you to offer my kindest regards, & my grateful acknowledgments for her many offices of Christian love to me and mine, during a long life of service & unbroken friendship; & to the Miss Woods present also my most sincerely affectionate remembrances. May the All-sufficient God be your refuge & your portion. I am, My very dear Fd, Yrs most gratefully & affectly,
through all Time & all Eternity, Jabez Bunting

James Wood, Esqr.

Care of Messrs. Wood & Westhead,

Manchester.

Private, and
Immediate.

30, Myddelton Sq: London:
April 22. 1843.

My very dear Friend,

Accept my heart-felt thanks for your affectionate & soothing Letter of condolence, received last week. So prompt, as well as kind, an expression of your sympathizing ~~[illegible]~~ friendship, conveyed to me at a time when both Mrs Wood & yourself were suffering under severe affliction, and when your house, like mine, was emphatically a house of mourning & sorrow, I take as an additional proof of your faithful love, which demands far more than ordinary gratitude. My recent bereavement, coming upon me suddenly & unexpectedly, & at a time when my health & spirits were greatly impaired, has greatly distressed me. The cup is indeed a bitter one, though much sweetened by the details, of which you have probably heard something, of my poor dear Lad's last days. Those pious Methodist Friends, who witnessed his deep humiliation, & fervent cries for mercy to God in Christ,

I am sorry to hear from Percy, whom I have just seen for a minute or two, that Miss Sarah Wood's health is worse, & that you & your dear family are in trouble on account of her increased affliction. Be assured of my sympathy & my prayers, — all I am able to offer. Our personal intercourse is much less than I could wish; but my heart beats as strongly & affectionately as ever towards yourself & Mrs Wood, and I think I may say that I daily remember you, & in that way hold pleasant communion with you, at the throne of the heavenly grace. We shall, I trust, at no very distant period, meet in Heaven.

I ~~was~~ have been often very ill, since my last return from Manchester. My family solicitudes & public anxieties quite oppress me; and bodily infirmities

thicken fast upon me. But I endeavour to "submit myself unto God", whose tender mercies in Christ Jesus are "all my salvation & all my desire". Pray for me!

Mrs B., whose faithful love & assiduities are a very great comfort to me in this dark & cloudy day of my declining years, joins me in kindest remembrances to Mr Wood, yourself, & the Miss Woods. I am always

Your very grateful & affectte. [illegible]

Jabez Bunting

James Wood, Esqr.

Messrs. Wood & Westhead,
High Street,
Manchester.

Private.

PW

Wesleyan Mission House,
Bishopsgate Street Within.
London, Feby 2d — 1843.

My very dear Friend,

Mr. Farmer informs me that Monday next will be the proper time for fulfilling the Resolution of the Centenary Committee, by presenting the Donation, to the Bible Society; & wishes me to send you a line, in order to request that you will put me in possession of the necessary means. I suppose an Order, on Smith, Payne, & Co for the amount, payable to me on or before that day, will be the best mode of doing it. It would please me better, if the Order on Smith & Co. were so drawn, as to include with mine the names of Mr. Farmer & Mr. Elliott. You best know, whether that can be done with propriety. The Bible Committee meets at 12 o'clock on the day specified.

& to take Manchester on Thursday, on my return to London. I may however, by possibility, find it best to take the Derby Line, rather than the Lichfield one; in which case I shall at least call in Manchester, on my way to the Rail-Road Station.

With kindest regards to Mrs Wood, & all at Grove House, including Mrs Bulmer, & Mr & Mrs P. Wood, when you write, & to my young folks at Limelgrove, if you chance to see them,

I am,

My very dear Frd,

Your obliged & affecte

J. Bunting

be happy to know if you, & your other friends, agree in the propriety of the course which I have ventured to adopt.

As it is not unlikely that Parliament may meet earlier than usual, it would, perhaps, be well if it could be made possible to begin the Paper rather sooner than Jan. 1. This however is open to much discussion. At present, & for some months to come, all heads & hands here will be fully occupied with the Institution. — Mr Hunter is decidedly of opinion

James Wood, Esq.,
Mess. Wood & Westhead,
High Street,
Manchester

Private

Mrs [illegible] Wood sent in town, to be paid by Mr T. P. Bunting

I congratulate you on our success in regard to the Institution. [illegible] a success. The noble List of Contributions from Manchester very especially contributed to [illegible]. Please to shew this Letter to Percy, with any too. Remember me most affectionately to Holwood & family. Yrs ever, J Bunting

that Mr Sandworth's engagement in a Newspaper would essentially injure his success as a Physician. And, between ourselves, I incline to think that his services, however valuable, would be bought too dear on the liberal terms you have last proposed to him, & that we might possibly get a sufficient Editor at a cheaper rate, & without the serious responsibility of moving Mr S. & his family from his present locality. Some Preachers strongly recommend Mr Gawtrop, now connected with a Newspaper at Hull, & well acquainted with the business. Mr Grindrod once named him to us, & can tell you all about him. As

London Aug. 29. 1834

My very dear Friend,

I am this moment favoured with your Letter.

I am too much honoured by the request you make respecting the infant child of Mr & Mrs P. Wood, to resist the temptation so kindly presented to me. I do not at present see it possible that I should remain in the North so long as Sunday the 7th; I therefore think it best to fix at once on Thursday the 4th of Sept., as the day of Baptism. I cannot yet say whether I shall see Manchester sooner than the Afternoon of that day. I must go to Liverpool on business; & probably it may be best to go thither from Leicestershire on Tuesday;

Now, though there is nothing in our project or purpose which would really violate this feeling, yet, considering that the Paper is not yet in being, there would have been some, even among its friends in Conference, who would have hesitated about expressing before-hand an approbation of the design. And then I had some doubt also whether, after all, a distinct promise of encouragement, obtained as it must have been by something like pledges on our part, would not have fettered us too much in our ~~ulterior~~ proceedings; and involved, also, a liability in future Conferences to the annoyance of much cavil & animadversion from the few Preachers, (few, but bold & noisy) who do not agree with us in opinion on public & methodistical questions. I wished a hundred times that some of the Country Proprietors had been present, to decide for themselves what course we ought to take. I felt my situation to be delicate & perplexing; but, after consulting with our best friends, did the best I could. I stated to the Conference the necessity & probable usefulness of such a Paper, & the general principles on which you intend to conduct it; — disclaimed asking for an immediate vote of Encouragemt; — but announced the project as

likely to be executed; asserted the readiness of the parties to give any reasonable power of interference and control to the Conference, as security for its methodistical character, if, on seeing it, they should hereafter be disposed to afford it the benefit of their patronage & recommendation; and wished to elicit the views & feelings of the Preachers. The result was most satisfactory. The project was hailed with almost unanimous enthusiasm; & loud calls for its speedy accomplishment were made from every quarter of the Chapel. A strong conviction of its necessity & certain success was decidedly expressed; and, though no act of the Conference was just now deemed prudent, I was authorized to state to the Gentlemen concerned that the Preachers feel the need of such a paper, will look on it with a most favourable eye, will afford every proper facility by our Book Parcels, &c, to the circulation of their Prospectuses, & - if they find it, on inspection, to answer to the spirit of its original professions, may probably be inclined next year to publish a direct recommendn of its general design &c, though still disclaiming any distinct & sweeping responsibility for its specific contents. Now I think this is all we need in the commencement; & shall be

I thank God, my general health improves daily. My Leg heals <u>very slowly</u>; but there is not one unfavourable symptom. I <u>hope</u> (O may it, if it please God, be realized) to be allowed to travel towards Manchester in a fortnight, or at most three weeks. But the journey will even then be a formidable undertaking for a poor Cripple. Such, I suppose, I must be, more or less, for several months. The will of the Lord be done! It is a mercy that I escape without loss of life or limb. — Excuse the trouble which I have desired my Son to give you about Money-Affairs &c. Your friendship for me is truly no sinecure. God bless you! I am ever, Yours most gratefully, J. Bunting

James Wood, Esq.,
Messrs. Wood & Westhead,
High St.,
Manchester.

C
AU 12
1830

the Cement.

P.S. Are you coming soon to Cheltenham? If so, say when; I wish, if possible, to spend a day with you there.

P.W. London. Aug. 16. 1832

My dear Friend,

It is probable that Mr Newton, Mr Crowther, & Mr Bowers will have communicated to you already the result of the Conversation in the Conference about the Newspaper. Yet I cannot resist the temptation of stating to you, at this my first hour of leisure since I saw you in Tadcaster, the substance of what has occurred: — leaving you to collect the details from the friends I have mentioned, & from Mr Anderson on his return.

My strong impression, I may even say conviction, after all the discussions growing out of Mr Stephens's Case, was this: that it would not be expedient at present to ask from the Conference a direct and positive sanction of the Paper by a public vote or act. We should probably have obtained a majority even in that case. But there is a general feeling of salutary caution, lest we should as a Body be committed to any particular line of party politics, & so injure the character & usefulness of our Ministry, & provoke unprofitable disputations among ourselves & our people.

[illegible] manner & his address, his words at all events be a great acquisition.

in a way of which I feel myself most un-worthy. The affliction, severe & protracted as it has proved, has been mixed with so much of providential alleviation & of gracious support, & marked, moreover, by so many circumstances which strikingly indicate the hand & direction of my heavenly Father, that I cannot doubt of its kind & benignant design, even if the Infallible Oracles had given no explicit revelation as to the merciful purpose of all such dispensations. May the effect answer to the intention of God. I do trust & pray, that this visitation may be sanctified to me & mine; & that restored health & prolonged life may be connected, by the divine blessing, with increased piety, & devotedness to the best of Causes.

We felt much & tenderly for Mrs Fernley, on the occasion of her dangerous accident, while in London; & experienced a correspondent joy, when the cause of alarm was so soon removed,

by the safe & skilful extraction of the Needle. Mr Gaskell, her surgeon, (& one of mine,) often enquires after her with much interest. We are sorry to hear, that since her return home she has had a serious illness. She really must be urged & exhorted incessantly to take great care of her health. I intend myself, when I have the pleasure of seeing her, to take the liberty of delivering to her a Homily on that subject. — It will give us satisfaction to learn, that Mrs Wood, & all our young friends at Grove House, (whom may God preserve & bless) are well, & as happy as every spiritual enjoyment, crowning every earthly comfort, can possibly make them. Mrs B. joins me in love to them; to yourself, to Mr & Mrs Fernley, to Mr & Mrs Cooper, to Mr Westhead, Mr Baxter, (by whose kind visit I felt more obliged than I can now tell you) to Mr John Lomas, to Mr Lessey, Mr Hannah, Mr Hume, Mr & Mrs Marris (if you shd see them) & in a word to any of my friends who may chance to enquire about me.

MANCHESTER
OC 31
1824

OC 4
1824

Rev. Hugh Carter,
Methodists' Chapel,
Andover.

3

Chelsea. Aug. 11. 1830.

My dear Friend,

I have received from you, during my illness here, two most kind and most welcome Letters; for which my grateful heart tells me that I ought to thank you, not by verbal messages only, but by a few lines written with my own hand. It is true, I write from that Bed, on which I now lie for the 66th day, being advised that this is the position most favourable for the speedy healing of my Leg, & that to exchange it for the Sopha, except for very short periods indeed, would retard my cure. Such a posture is inconvenient; but I hope my scribble will be readable; & the rest you will excuse.

Let me then assure you, my dear Friend, that your Letters were truly soothing to me in my troubles. I was at one time brought very low, & needed the aids & consolations of friendship. The mercies of God, however, have abounded towards me

refers. I have a faint remembrance that something of the kind was just mentioned in Conference; but on me it made so little impression, that I have quite forgotten the particulars.

With christian regards to Mrs Carter, and to Mr & Mrs Noyes, when you see them, I am, in haste,

My dear Brother,

Yours truly,

J Bunting.

James Wood, Esqr.
Messrs. Wood & Westhead;
High Street,
Manchester.

Post-paid.

Manchester. Oct. 2. 1824.

My dear Brother,

The distance from this place to Andover is so great, & you have so many suitable supplies much nearer to you, that it seems to be almost out of the question for me to think of visiting you on the present occasion. Indeed at the time you mention I could not possibly take such a Journey.

I know nothing of the Missionaries about whom you enquire. The Missionary Secretaries are the sole depositaries of all information of that kind.

I am equally unable to answer your Letter on the third point to which it

Letter. Of course, some must see it. But I think the more quietly the thing is got rid of, the better; as some captious persons may make more of it than really exists.

With unfeigned regard, I am,

My very dear Friend,

Yours affect.ly

& gratefully,

J. Bunting.

P. S.

You will oblige me by pre-
-senting my best respects to Mr
Thomas Parker; & telling him, ~~that~~ the
only reason why I have not sooner
answered his Letter, is, that, after
making enquiries in various direc-
-tions, I have not been able to find
any person who seemed likely
to answer the purpose of Mr
Robt Parker. There is, indeed, Mr
Will. H. L. Eden, a Supernumerary
Preacher at Lichfield, & the Nephew of Mrs
Hill of Liverpool. He was once in a
somewhat similar situation
near Prescot; & has the manners of a
Gentleman. But whether he would now
accept of employment, or would be
suitable, I cannot say. If I hear of any one
else, I will write. I shall continue my enquiries.

Mr. G. Marsden, there are few Preachers with whom I should more enjoy the opportunities of personal intercourse. But I feel that I am public property; & I conscientiously think that I can better serve the Cause by taking charge of a smaller Circuit elsewhere, for two or three years, than by going as Second Preacher to Manchester. Considering my standing in the work, I may without arrogance express this opinion to you, & through you to Mr. John Marsden, (to whom I beg you to shew this Letter,) though of course, as it is open to a mis-construction, I should not wish it to go much farther.

There is one other view of your Project of Division which I ought just to notice, before I conclude. I see no public object whatever, of any material importance, that would be answered by any immediate Division of Manchester alone. Difficulties there would be, many; but advantages I cannot discover. It would therefore be said, that the Division was a contrivance of my friends, to accommodate me; and that I really could not bear, &, as a public man, to whom high character for principle & disinterested-ness, is every thing, I ought not to be a party to it.

On the whole, I feel it right cheerfully to submit to the indications of Divine Providence, by taking another Circuit, rather than agree to any thing which would look like *forcing* myself to the place of my personal inclinations. I have declined a pressing request of the Official Persons at Leeds, to allow them to nominate me in their Meeting; because I decidedly feel that the charge of 5000 souls is too onerous for me to undertake with innocence. *Probably*, Bath may be my Station for 2 or 3 years to come, if I am spared; where I am likely to have Mr. Hannah for my Colleague.

We rejoice to hear that Mrs. Wood is better. Give our best love to her, to all your young People, & to any common friend to whom you may deem it necessary to shew this

on your project, be continually infringed. I much doubt whether such a project ought to pass either your Quarterly or District-Meeting. The Conference, I am persuaded, with the example of Salford in its recollection, would hesitate to agree to it. Perhaps there may be reasons for pressing it which I do not see; but it could not be carried, either in your Quarterly Meeting or in the Conference, without contention & difficulty. And, after eleven years of absolutely public life, in which all my private studies & comforts, and in some degree my domestic duties also, have been ~~[illegible]~~ suspended or given up, I really must have rest & quiet, & nothing but the regular work of an established Circuit, in order that I may refit my bark, after the long wear & tear to which it has been exposed. My mind & body alike require this. Any plan, or any place, which involves difficulty and opposition & struggle, is quite

unfit for me just now. With repeated & most cordial thanks therefore to you, to Mr. J. Marsden, & to any other of my much-esteemed friends, who have had a part in this business, with an ultimate view to the nomination of me in your March Meeting I must wholly decline to be so nominated at present. — On the plan of a Division of your Circuit, I could not comfortably come to it this year. And if there be no Division, I had rather come at a future time, if regularly asked by the proper Meeting, than now: — 1st Because a much smaller Charge than that of 3000 Souls, will better meet my wishes and circumstances, till I have been in port for a while, & have so renewed my mental & moral energies: 2dly Because, my long friendship with Mr Geo. Marsden, & with his family-connexions, will not allow me to think for a moment of standing in the way of his appointment, even could I suppose, which I do not, that your Quarterly Meeting should desire it. — As to coming with

I have not been so arrogant as to concur in anything which can be construed into a sort of bargaining about so respectable a Circuit as Manchester, nearly 12 months before the time of a vacancy. Such a bargaining, had it occurred, would be highly dishonourable to me, who have ever hated & reprobated all procedures of that description; and I am therefore anxious to be guarded against the very suspicion of it.

Now, as to the subject of your late kind Letter, for which I most affectionately thank you. When Division was talked of, it never appeared to me that any plan of Division would be proper at present, which did not provide for remedying the great mischiefs which resulted from the injudicious & unmethodistical mode of the Salford Division. If Manchester and Salford, as they now stand, could be formed into Three good Circuits, in which there should be a strictly territorial division of the whole ground, on fair principles, so as to prevent the present system of interference, & of consequent animosity, I should think that a great public object, to which almost every minor view should be gladly sacrificed. But your present project of Division leaves that great object quite untouched.

Nay, it even goes to retard, if not ~~even~~ to pre-
-vent, its accomplishment at any <u>future</u> period, & thus to perpetuate the existing evils, which, while they last, will always tend to injure brotherly love, & interfere with proper Methodist Discipline. This alone is, with me, an insurmountable objection to your plan. I think it also very undesirable that the proposed South Circuit should have but <u>Two</u> Preachers, after being accustomed so long to so much variety. It seems to me that, even if Salford must be left out of any new arrange-
-ment, Manchester is not ripe for a new Divi-
-sion, until each of the new Circuits is likely to be strong enough to support Three Preachers. This the Grosvenor St. Circuit could not do at present, unless Altringham, & perhaps some places from Stockport Circuit, could be joined with it, which is an arrangement that cannot be <u>now</u> made. The Oldham St. Preachers would have to pass <u>through</u> the heart of the other Circuit, in order to get at Altringham; & thus the <u>territorial</u> or <u>geographical</u> principle, which should be observed in all Divisions, & for want of which the Salford Division has done harm rather than good, would

Minister, in some other Circuit, than I can, under present circumstances, at Manchester.

I feel, indeed, that I am altogether placed in a very awkward situation about this affair, from which nothing but my totally declining to be at all mentioned to your Quarterly Meeting can pleasantly & honourably disentangle me. — At the last Conference, it is true, there did seem to be an Opening for me to go to Manchester. Mr. Marsden had expressed to the Stationing Committee his preference of a third Year at Leeds; and the Brother who was put down for you in his place (Mr. Rogers) was not quite agreeable, as Mr. Newton told us in Conference, to all of you. A change was desired; a man for Man-chester was openly asked for; and as the place seemed vacant, I did venture (perhaps foolishly) in the fulness of my heart, & the eagerness of my anxiety to get away from London, to say that I was willing & should be thankful to fill up the vacancy. Difficulties, however, were started; though why they were deemed insurmountable I never could to this day at all understand. Thus the matter ended, as far as I had to do with it, or ever intended to interfere in it, directly or indirectly. The Station was otherwise filled up, very satisfactorily; and I returned to my metropo-

-litan drudgery for another year. But when you & Mr. John Marsden came over, you kindly expressed a hope that I should be stationed with you *this* year, and intimated that a Division of the Circuit was contemplated, which would open my way to Grosvenor St., without at all interfering with Mr. G. Marsden's going, as he was understood to wish, and as the Quarterly Meeting was likely then to desire that he should, to Oldham Street. I took this merely as the utterance of your personal wishes, knowing that it could not be in any sense official. & in the same way I signified that to my personal feelings such a project was in anticipation very pleasing. Whatever subsequent conversations might take place between me & you, or me & Mr. J. Marsden were all of the same private & individual character. I felt that it was almost presumptuous to talk of the matter at all, till it came officially under consideration at the March Quarterly Meeting, which, after all, might not improbably disapprove of the Division, or, even in case of a Division, decline to ask for me with such a degree of unanimity as would by me be deemed quite indispensable to my acceptance of any invitation from Manchester. — I have deemed it needful thus to recal to your recollection what has formerly occurred, in order to shew that

James Wood, Esq.

Messrs. Wood & Westhead,

High Street,

Manchester.

Post-paid

If Mr Wood be from home, to be sent to Mrs Wood.

PW London. Feb. 17. 1824.

My very dear Friend,

As Mr. Heald kindly offers to convey a Letter to you, I embrace the opportunity; though I confess that I have never written to you with ~~more~~ so much reluctance, because I anticipate, from that warm friendship for me which I know you entertain, that the nature of my present communication will give you pain rather than pleasure. For all the trouble which you, & other personal friends of mine, have taken to prepare the way for my appointment to Manchester, at the next Conference, in case your March Quarterly Meeting should chuse to solicit such an appointment, I most gratefully thank you. To my feelings, Manchester would be a most agreeable Station; because it would once more bring me for a season into constant intercourse with those to whom my heart ever cleaves with peculiar attachment as the associates of my early life, and to whom my regard has continued to increase with my increasing years, and more perfect knowledge of their steady & active adherence to our common Cause & Master. I therefore regret to say, that after much deliberation & prayer, my judgment is in this instance decidedly in opposition to my feelings, & tells me that I ought not to consent to be put in nomination, this year, at your ensuing Quarterly Meeting. I am fully persuaded that my way to Manchester is not yet fully & fairly open; & that, on many accounts, I shall better serve the work of God, to which I am solemnly bound ever to look as the first & highest consideration with a Christian

-viously taken her place in a Friday Afternoon Coach. I have desired her, whenever she gets to Manchester, to make her way to your Warehouse, there to leave her Luggage, and to take a Hackney Coach up to Ardwick Place. — I am happy to say that her foot is much better, in consequence of her late short visit to the Sea Coast.

We must leave you, after Tea on Saturday, in order to go to Ratcliff & Bury, where I am to spend Sunday & Monday in Missionary Service. If Mr Morley, or any other person connected with Ratcliff, call for me at your Warehouse on Saturday, will you have the goodness to say that I hope to be ready to go to Mrs Bealey's that evening about half past seven o'clock.

With many thanks for past kindnesses, which have been such as almost

prevent me from apologizing
for my present freedoms, and
with love to Mrs Wood (whose health
I earnestly hope I shall find to
be quite restored) and all your
dear young people, I am,

My dear Friend,

Yours most affec[y]

J Bunting

James Wood, Esqr.

High Street,

(or Ardwick Place)

Manchester.

Fav.d by the
Rev. Jos. Taylor.

PW

London. July 16. 1823

My dear Friend,

I take the liberty of writing, to request your friendly attentions to my dear Mrs Bunting; who will, I expect, be in Manchester, on her way from Liverpool to Mrs Adam Bealey's at Ratcliffe, on Friday Evening next, or on Saturday Forenoon. The latter is most probable. In either case, she will be happy to take a family-dinner with Mrs Wood on Saturday; and I hope to join you at Tea.

Our first plan was to have met at your house on Friday Afternoon; Mrs B. coming from Liverpool, & I from London. But I find that I cannot hope to be at liberty sooner than Friday; & of course cannot reach Manchester till Saturday at 4 or 5 o'clock. My wife, whom I inform of this by tonight's Post, will probably defer her journey from Friday to Saturd-y Morning; unless she had pre-

and is lately returned from a two years'
excursion to Greece, Egypt, Arabia,
Syria, & Palestine. Some of his descriptions
of those ~~countries~~ countries are exceedingly vivid and
entertaining. He is, on his way, I believe,
to a visit at Dr. Clarke's; (the second he has
paid there since his return to England;) and
understanding that a few days' delay could
be of no consequence to him, I ventured to ask
him to stay till we went, to stop at Manchester
till your Meeting was over, & to give you
a Speech. I hope he will prove an acquisition
to us. At all events, some account of the state
of things in the East will furnish an agreeable
variety. Would it be possible to procure
him a comfortable Lodging, during the
few days he will spend in Manchester? Any
of our friends that can make room for him
will find him to be a young man of pleasing and

gentlemanly manners, and an intelli-
-gent & amusing companion.

I have this moment received the Printed Account of Sunday's Services. I shall ~~soon~~ fulfil as well as I can my portion of them; although I own I am very uncomfortable about it. I am sure I shall render you a disservice instead of a benefit, both in the Pulpit, & in Monday's Meeting, by occupying the time that some Stranger, and a person more in the habit of speaking in the oratorical stile than I ever shall be, would have better employed. I shall not have one minute of leisure, before I leave Town, to think even of a Text or a Subject; much less of Sermons, and a Speech. The consciousness of being so perfectly unprepared for work, which, to be done efficiently, really requires some previous arrangement and thought, will make me feel ashamed to shew my face. But it is too late to retreat.

My wife joins in love to Mrs W. & all your family
with Yours very affect.y J. Bunting.

my William to some situation at Christmas last; but as nothing seems to open for him: & as Mr. F. very strongly urges it, I shall again send him to St. Saviour's, probably till Midsummer at all events. He will most gladly take such care of your son as the Senior Boy in a large School can give to a junior. Thus his introduction will be rendered more pleasant to him, than otherwise it could be: And no attention or assistance which Mrs. Bunting, Mrs. Bulmer, & myself can render, to make him happy, will be

James Wood, Esq.
Messrs. Wood & Westhead's,
High Street,
Manchester.

Angel Street.
Private.

I believe Mr. F. has vacancies in his establishment out of Town, the end of the vacation, hence, on this account, I ascertain his terms for a [illegible] from you [illegible] I shall make [illegible]

in his house &c. But [illegible] i.e. about a fortnight [illegible] Boys [illegible] as soon as you can, any further enquiry [illegible]

ever want, whether in health or sickness, so long as we remain in Town. By mixing with London Boys & servants, his dialect may become less provincial; and the manners & habits of Mr. F.'s family are, I believe, quite such as you would wish to be exhibited before a Boy likely to move in genteel life. If you find it adviseable, you can remove him, when any more eligible School presents itself: & you will be sure, in the meantime that he is commencing his elementary classical studies in the very best way, & so as to lay a sound & good foundation. Perhaps too some arrangement, as to Sundays, &c., may be effected; which would meet any religious scruple at least in a considerable degree. Our house & personal attentions you may command, without hesitation.

London. March 25. 1823.

My dear Friend,

I write a line by Mr Taylor, just to say, that the Mail is taken for Friday Evening next, in which, if the Lord will, Mrs Bulmer, Mr John Carne, Mr Butterworth, and myself, shall set out for Manchester, & hope to be there early on Saturday Evening.

Mrs Bulmer & I shall, according to your kind invitation, take up our abode at Ardwick Place for three nights. I do not know what quarters are prepared for Mr Butterworth; but suppose that he goes to Mr Burton's.

Mr John Carne is the son of Mr Carne, the Banker, of Penzance, one of the oldest Methodists in that County. — Mr John C. is himself, I believe, a Member of our Society, & was formerly a Local Preacher. He is a <u>very</u> interesting, though perhaps somewhat eccentric young man;

infer, from his Private Pupils having usually been Young Men whose object it was to finish under his care their education in the Higher Classics, that they are such as it almost seems a pity to give for so young a Boy as yours. Then again, at Mr. Fancourt's he will have no advantages for learning any thing but the Classics & French; as it is quite on the principle of a regular Grammar School. There is indeed a Master for Writing & Arithmetic, but such an one as, I fear, would not meet your views. But perhaps that might be remedied by some arrangement with Mr. Fancourt to allow him leisure for being attended at given hours by some other Masters for different branches. But my greatest fear of all is, on religious grounds. Mr. Fancourt, I believe, knows & loves the truth, fears God, respects the Methodists, & has nothing of the Bigot about him. But I am rather doubtful, (though I know nothing very positive or material to the contrary, except that I have heard that his young People, Mrs. Fancourt's Daughters who live in the house with him, have been in some instances seen to play at cards,) whether his family be conducted on a plan so regular & so decidedly religious, as you would like your only Son to be brought up in. I believe they usually have family-prayer: And two young men, whom I recommended to him, the Son & Nephew of our friend H. Noyes Esqr., appear very well satisfied, as does Mr. Noyes himself. — Perhaps there may not be any very decisive weight in these objections; but feeling them, I thought it right to state them to you. They are not new; indeed I mentioned them all to you, I believe, when you were here; and all that has come to my

knowledge since has tended rather to diminish than to augment their influence on my own mind. — On the other side, you have, I am persuaded, a very capital Classical Master in Mr. Fancourt, a man educated at Eton, & long experienced in tuition. He is eccentric, but thoroughly kind & good-tempered, & uniformly much beloved by all his pupils. He respects good things; and though a Clergyman would not suffer any Boy to be ill-treated for his Parents' attachment to Methodism. This, in a Grammar School, I fear, is a recommendation that will not be found elsewhere. There is fun in the School, & sometimes rough fun; but I cannot learn that there is any of that systematic vice which most large Schools, I fear, so greatly exemplify. This too is a strong circumstance in its favour. Mrs. Fancourt I understand to be a very kind matronly person; & the domestic treatment, I think, would be all that Mrs. Wood could expect or desire for her beloved Boy. Indeed the Private Pupils in the House are rather on the footing of Inmates in a Gentleman's Family than of mere School Boys. This, at least, is what I understand.

From these statements I hope you will form, with Mrs. Wood, your own opinion. If however it will be any satisfaction to you, I will readily give you mine. Taking everything into the account if you have not heard of any Country-School that more decidedly combines religious advantages in our own way with those of a classical character, I advise you to bring Peter to Mr. Fancourt's, at least for half a year, or a year, on trial. I intended to have removed

P.S. You will do us the favour to make our house your home, with Peter if you decide on bringing him to Town. We should be most happy to see Mrs Wood with you. Mrs Bulmer is but poorly. I think she is inclined to return with you to Lancashire. She and my wife join in best love to Mrs W., yourself, & family. — You will consider some parts of this Letter respecting Mr Fancourt as quite confidential.

London. Jan. 9. 1823

My very dear Friend,

Having much to say, and little time left to save this Post, I must not make long apologies for my delay. Let me entreat you to impute it only to its true causes, viz. my overwhelming & unceasing occupations, and my wish to have opportunity for thought, enquiry, & consultation with our common friend Mrs Bulmer, before I answered your last kind Letter, for which, and for the valuable tokens of your friendly remembrance, which reached us a day before it, we beg you to accept our very best thanks.

Now for your dear Boy, and the School at St Saviour's. I have had my eye on the subject ever since we parted, as well as long before; but nothing that is, on the whole, more suitable than Mr Fancourt's has yet come under my notice. I am, however, rather uneasy, as you seem to devolve some responsibility on me, in reference to the opinion I may give (and you have a full right so to do, in any matter on which you may honour me by asking my opinion, but especially in a case so interesting to you, and to me for your sake,) lest I should in any degree lead you wrong. I wish you therefore distinctly to understand, that I do not think St Saviour's altogether free from objection, as a <u>Boarding</u>-School for your son. The very ~~heart~~ centre of a crowded Metropolis does not strike one as the <u>best</u> situation, either in point of health, intellectual discipline, or morals, for a Boy whose parents cannot constantly watch over him, when so circumstanced. The Expence, too, is some consideration, though with you not a very weighty one: for though I do not exactly know Mr Fancourt's terms, I

write to me, by return of Post; unless you conclude on coming immediately. You will best judge what is best on that point. Mrs Bulmer is an Executrix. She is greatly distressed; yet greatly supported; & on the whole, now, as well as during the

long illness of Mr B., displays a calmness & submission truly christian. With love to Mrs & Miss W., in which my wife unites, I am, My dear Fd,

Yours most affy,
J Bunting

James Wood, Esq.
Messrs. Wood & Westhead's,
High Street,
Manchester

said he could not survive 24 hours. The event proved that he did not survive 1 hour. About 10 minutes before 12, he exchanged mortality for life. His death was perfectly quiet & easy; so that Mrs Bulmer, Mrs Collinson, & the Servants who were in the room, did not appre-hend any immediate crisis, nor perceive for several minutes that it had occurred. Mr Marsden was in the house.

Mr Collinson writes to you officially by this Post: But it is Mrs Bulmer's wish that I also should write as a friend. She is anxious that you should, if possible, come up to Town; and I have many reasons for entreating that

you will not fail to do so. Our house is now much less noisy & full than when you were with us before; so that I am emboldened to beg that you will gratify & honour us by being our guest. Mr Maclardie is at Margate. Percy is at Ringwood; & William in Yorkshire. We have therefore plenty of room; & can I hope, make you tolerably comfortable. — I must tell you [illegible] confidence that Mrs Bulmer feared, from a passage in your last Letter to Mr B., that you rather wished to decline the office of Executor. This fear made her delicate mind somewhat uneasy; but I did what I could to remove the painful impression. She will be quite relieved, if you come up. No time is yet fixed for the funeral. I suppose it will be in about a week. Do come, I beseech you, if possible. I am sorry to hear of Mrs Wood's indisposition; but hope it will be soon & effectually removed.

Letter has been forwarded to her.

Excuse haste & blunders. I write this in the midst of a Committee. With love to Mrs. Wood, Miss Wood, & all your Children, I am Your's most affect.ly J. Bunting.

James Wood, Esqr.
Messrs. Wood & Westheads,
High Street,
Manchester.

P.S. I am obliged by Mrs. Wood's kind invitation to William. He is, during his Northern Excursion, Mr. Scarth's Guest, who took him hence yesterday to join his family at Liverpool. If, on their way thence to Leeds, they pass through Manchester, William will certainly do himself the pleasure of calling on you at Ardwick Place.

P W London: Wednesdy Evng

My very dear Friend,

The mortal conflict of our dear friend Bulmer is over; and he is now a blessed inhabitant of ~~that~~ world which, much more truly than this, is the land of the living, – the land in which there is "no more death".

He continued, since I wrote last, gradually to "waste away"; and for several days was exceedingly low in body, but strong & steadfast in faith. I paid ~~him~~ my last visit to his house last night at 10 o'clock, & staid till 11; but he was so low, that it was not thought proper for me to see him. His ~~and a~~ Medical Attendant

and is, by it, kept in a state of great restlessness, so that he has seldom much sleep in the night, & often what he gets in the day, as he sits up in his Chair, is so disturbed as to afford him little refreshment. His mind, however, is calm and composed, his patience is most exemplary, & his confidence in God, & lively hopes of glory, are becoming daily more rich and satisfying. He is indeed in a truly blessed state of soul; and I am often, while with him, compelled to say in my heart,

"O may I triumph so,
When all my warfare's past,
And, dying, find my latest foe
Under my feet at last."

I mentioned to you in my last that Mr B. wishes you to be one of his Executors, and has ventured to name you in his Will in that character. He has repeatedly enquired, since he mentioned that business to me, whether

I wrote to you accordingly, and whether you had replied to me on that point. He seems anxious to know whether you consent to act for him in that capacity. Let me beg of you to write him a few lines by return of Post, in order to set his mind fully at rest in that particular. I think he has no idea of recovery; but within the last few days I have conjectured that Mrs. B.'s hope has been a little revived. I fear, however, there is no solid reason for any favourable opinion as to the result. But he may yet linger several weeks. He insists that Mr. Marsden & Mr. Woolmer, the Preachers w[ho] usually have been his Guests at Conferen[ce] should lodge in the house this year. I a little wonder at this; but it shews his attachment to the good cause; & Mrs. B. seems resolved to gratify him, as they are both old friends, & can be treated on a footing of familiarity.

My Wife & Children (except William) are at Worthing, for the benefit of sea-bathing, which several of them were thought to need: so that I am at present quite solitary. Mrs. Wood's obliging

1837 Octr 6
16

James Wood, Esqr,
Messrs. Wood & Westhead's,
High Street,
Manchester.

PW

London; July 12. 1822.

My dear Friend,

I judge that by this time you are returned from your melancholy journey into the North, and that you will be glad to hear how Mr Bulmer goes on.

During the last ten days, our suffering Friend has been, on the whole, in rather a more quiet state. His paroxysms of laborious breathing have not been, in general, so severe. Nor has he been so incapable of free conversation, or of attending, at intervals, to the arrangement of some little temporal affairs, as he was during the first weeks of illness. But I think he is manifestly weaker; and he appears to me to be gradually ~~but~~ and gently wasting away. He has much Fever,

warrants any expectation of eventual recovery. Occasionally he seems better, as to his difficulty of breathing; but it lasts not long; & often the paroxysms of laborious respiration are truly distressing. He sleeps little, having much fever and restlessness. He now discharges a little blood from the Lungs. The probability is, that he will linger on, for some time to come, till gradually worn down by fatigue, & want of food & sleep. The Doctors have now ceased to administer medicine except some occasional palliative; finding all their efforts to subdue the main disease quite useless. In the midst of all, I rejoice to say, he is sometimes in tolerable spirits, & always calm & patient. His soul is quite at rest. His confidence in God through Christ is strong; & his hope of glory undoubting & assured. Mrs Bulmer is wonderfully supported. She really conducts

herself, in this great trial, in a way that edifies & astonishes us all.

I am sorry to say, that the Burslem Meeting is put off till after Conference; so that I shall not have the great pleasure of meeting you there, as was proposed, on the 7th of July. Yet perhaps this is well: for I should not like to be far from home just now; lest any sudden crisis should come on, in the case of our afflicted Friend.

I shall be glad to hear from you. Give our best love to Mrs Wood & all your dear young People: And believe me to be ever

Yours most affect.ly

J. Bunting.

seems now disposed to accept of Deptford. — Besides, you could not have both Watson & Newton at once. — I believe I cannot take a Circuit in Lancashire at present. — But I think either of the follow.g Appointm.ts would suit you well:

1. Griffith, Newton, Geo. Smith, Jno Davis, Hawtrey, John Anderson or Lord.
2. Newton, Geo. Smith, Davis, Hawtrey, John Anderson, or Lord
3. Marsden, Newton, Davis, Anderson, Lord.

James Wood Esq.r
Messrs. Wood & Westhead
High Street,
Manchester

Private letter
for Mr. Wood's
eye alone: immediate.

Any of these schemes would give you a proper mixture of good sound Revival Fire with respectable Pulpit-Talent. Geo. Smith, though Newton's Senior, w.d perhaps not object to be under him. He would do vastly well as y.r 2.d by his zeal, piety, & diligence. I am not sure that Hawtrey will take an English Circuit: but I think it likely, as his family is large, & he is doing little in France. John Anderson is a good Preacher: you heard his Speeches at Queen St. Miss.y Meet.g — All this to your ear. — My wife joins in best love to Mrs Wood & y.r young People, & to Mr & Mrs Newton, Mr & Mrs Marsden & all friends. — Do get Griffith if you can, if Newton be not your Superin.t — [illegible] J. Hunt

P.W.

London. June 29. 1822

My dear Friend,

I thank you for your last kind Letter. Mr. and Mrs. Bulmer also desire me to express their gratitude for your sympathizing Letter to them. To our afflicted friend it was peculiarly welcome. He has requested me to state to you another business. Called to settle his affairs, I suppose somewhat suddenly, he has taken the liberty of appointing you (with Mr. Thomas Collinson, (Mrs. Bulmer's Cousin & Brother-in-law) one of his Executors. He relies on your friendship for him to excuse his having done this without formally consulting you. Some other things which he charged me to say to you on this business, I will defer till you are called on to act.

Since Mrs. Bunting wrote to Mr. Wood, Mr. Bulmer has experienced various changes; but none, I fear, which at all

it is the King, & not the Queen, who has more reason to complain of injustice & persecution.

I am afraid that neither I nor Mr. — are likely to find time for drawing up a Paper on the advantage of the occasional use of a Liturgy in our Chapels. If Mr. Stephens or Mr. Jackson would do it, in as compendious & pithy a form as possible, I think we could procure its insertion in our Magazine, from which it might then be extracted & republished on a quarter-sheet. Its title might properly be, "A Vindication of that part of the Methodist Discipline, contained in what is called the Plan of Pacification, which recommends the use of the Liturgy in the forenoon service of the Lord's Day."

I shall be quite anxious to know the particulars of what may occur at your Meeting on the 28th. Do let me beg, as a favour, that either you or Mr. Jackson, to whom & to Mr. Stephens I beg my love, will inform me of them, if possible by that night's Post. I hope the Opposition will not succeed in ousting my friend from his Office. In this case it is not men, but measures & principles that are

mainly concerned.

Now as to your Appointment. If I, in my present station, say a word on that delicate subject, it must be in the most perfect confidence. — The first point to be ascertained is, will Mr. Newton be your Superintendent? That must decide in a great measure all the rest. If he keep his present House, which I suppose he will wish, I ~~suppose~~ imagine you must have another Superintendt., who ought in that case to be a tried, well-principled, & senior Man. My own Opinion would be most decidedly in favour of Mr Griffith. I think he would be just now a peculiar blessing to you. I believe he wishes to leave Bath. His health, since he went thither is wonderfully recruited. I saw him a few weeks ago, & was glad to see him so vastly well. If you have not him or Newton for Supert., you must have Mr Marsden. The Miss. Committee past a Resolution last Wednesday, stating their view of the high importance of Mr Watson's remaining two or three years longer in the Neighbourhood of London, for the sake of our infant Missions, so many of which have been planted under his peculiar direction. Watson, who had before this given encourag.t to Birmingham,

But make particular mention of us to such of your Children as can recollect us; and tell them all, with my love, that I hope they do not forget to pray to that good God, who is their heavenly Father, & to whose blessed service they were all solemnly devoted by my hand!

Revd
Jos. Entwisle
Manchester.

We have pleasing accounts from Ceylon by the last Packet. I will, if possible, inclose for you a Copy of the Extracts which are now printing. I am ever,

Most affect.ly Yours,
J. Bunting.

London. Dec. 23. 1820

My dear Friend,

Allow me to thank you very sincerely for your welcome Letter, and for a noble Cheshire Cheese, this day received. It will for many days to come remind us, if ever we should by strange inadvertency forget them, of our excellent friends at Longsight.

It is true that I fell, as I was going to Chapel one dark night, & that I received a considerable injury in my throat, which for a time made speaking & deglutition very painful to me, but from which I am now nearly recovered. But I am not _sure_, that I fell among thieves on that occasion, though from circumstances some have thought so. At all events I lost nothing. I have no suspicion of any thing like political hostility in the affair.

I greatly rejoice that Manchester has deserved so much honour on a recent occasion. Surely this madness of the people must subside erelong. I have the best private reasons for believing, that

I hope I need not use importunity to induce compliance with this request. We are very defective here in Speakers not absolutely professional; and the whole concern is in danger of being considered as exclusively a Preachers' business. We want every possible stimulus & influence; and in serving us, you will indirectly serve the Cause of Missions through the whole connexion. You may speak as long or as short as you please; but I beseech you, do not altogether refuse us. Indeed I think you will not. I dare say the holy flame has been fanned into stronger blaze than ever by your late Missionary Services & Meetings at Manchester. I wish I could have been with you, but it was impossible. When you write, in answer to my official communication, which I beg may be in a day or two, I will thank you to subjoin some account of your Meetings, Sermons &c. I have heard not a word as yet.

I assure you it gives me & my dear wife much pleasure to have the prospect of once more seeing you & Mrs Wood so soon. I can safely affirm that, on my part, no new friendships I may have formed have at all superseded or extinguished my old ones. We hope you will not forget that there are those at Lambeth who will be most heartily rejoiced to see you under their roof, because you are already in their hearts. Indulge us with as much as possible of your company.

Poor James Burton! I am anxious to hear some particulars of him. Where & how did he die? Was he very ill for any long time before? I thought he was gradually recovering. The news therefore greatly shocked & affected me. He was a worthy & excellent young Man, who, I believe loved cordially his Master & his work. Well, his rest, I doubt not, is glorious. May we follow on, till we receive the same crown. Where are his family?

My Wife joins in best love to Mrs Wood & yourself and to all friends near you, in general.

for Mr. Jacob Stanley, to succeed Mr. Pilter; and also to ask for me a third year. The last request was made, not only against my consent, but in spite of my remonstrance & entreaty. If triennial Stations could be generally allowed, I should be ~~glad~~ willing to stay, as I like the People, & am

Mr. Wood
Messrs. Wood & Westhead's
High St.
Manchester

as fond of my Superintendant as ever. But I should not like to receive it as a special favour. And besides, I have strong reasons for preferring a Circuit in the South or West; & the probability is, that such will be my lot. — Your friendship will excuse all this egotism into which I have been betrayed; & believe that wherever my residence may be fixed, I am always Yrs. most affect[ionate]ly

P.S. We unite in love to Mrs. Wood & all yr. little family — also to Mr. Grindrod, Mr. Jas. Barton, Mr. Westhead & Mr. J. Bunting

16, Canterbury Place,
Lambeth, London: April 12. 1817.

Pr

My dear Friend,

I am really glad, after so long a silence, to have a good reason for writing to you. And I now have a very good one, namely, the command of the General Committee of ~~our~~ Missionary Society for the London District; a command which I have peculiar pleasure in fulfilling.

The Committee have been informed by Mr Bulmer, that you will be in Town in the earliest part of the month of May. They therefore direct me most earnestly & respectfully to request that you will do us the favour of assisting at our approaching Anniversary, by taking a part in the two Public Meetings, which are to be held, one (for the District,) in ~~the~~ City Road Chapel on Thursday May 1st; the other, (for the West Circuit specially, though not exclusively,) in the Lambeth Chapel, on Monday Evening, May 5th

to me much pleasure. Tell me all your domestic and methodistical News. Why was your Missionary Meeting postponed to so late a period as April, after which the Conference, and preparations for it, will necessarily occupy so much of the time of those, who ought to be most active in the Missionary Cause? To me this seems unfortunate: but "better late than never". From the Circular Letter of the London Committee it appears that there is great danger, lest the present glorious openings for the introduction of Methodism into France & Flanders should be, at least partially, neglected, for want of pecuniary means. This would be an evil & a disgrace to our Body

greatly to be deplored. Our Missionary Society here has commenced its second year's operations; & we have many proofs, not merely of continued, but of increased activity & success. Nor do our missionary exertions at all injure, but greatly help, other departments of the work. We have just now opened the Subscription for our intended new Chapel in Leeds; and the Contributions, not solicited, but voluntarily offered, already exceed our hopes. The Missionary Business has taught the poorer & middling Classes the dignity & privilege of *giving*; and the principle once learned, the exercise of it is not confined to the particular occasion which first called it forth.

Our Quarterly Meeting unanimously resolved on Monday last to petition the Conference

Mr. Wood,

Messrs. Wood & Westheads,

High Street,

Manchester.

BW Leeds. Jan. 7. 1815.

My dear Friend,

Having an opportunity of sending a Letter which will cost you nothing, I embrace it, for the purpose of telling you, that this morning my dear Wife was safely delivered of a Daughter. She had, on the whole, "a very good time"; and both she and the Infant appear likely to do well. The Lord's holy name be praised!

As it may possibly tend to procure for me the high gratification of a speedy Letter from you on general subjects, I take the liberty of reminding you that you kindly promised to send me a written acknowledgement of the payment of the Money formerly due from me to Messrs. Wood & Westhead. This hint you will excuse. If a compliance with it occasions to you some trouble, it will afford

I shall, if all be well, be in Manchester on Thursday, about 3 or 4 o'clock; when I hope to see you, & receive your answer. On Friday Morning, I proceed to Birmingham, & on Saturday to Bristol.

Accept our sincere, though too tardy, congratulations on the birth of your infant Daughter, who, we hope, as well as Mrs. Wood, is doing well.

I thank God we are all pretty well at present. My wife joins in love to Mrs. W., your young folks, yourself, and Mr. Westhead, with

Yours very affect.ly

J. Bunting.

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[illegible]d

Mr. Wood.

Messrs. Wood & Westhead's,

High St.

Manchester

Single } only }

JW

Leeds. July 14th 1814.

My dear Friend,

I have been purposing to write to you every day for six or eight weeks. My delay has only been occasioned by my wish to fix, when I did write, on a time at which I could promise myself the pleasure of seeing you at Timperley. I hoped to have secured for that purpose a Night before the Conference. But I am so straitened for want of leisure, from the multiplicity of engagements which now press upon me, that I am reluctantly compelled to give up that point. Probably Mrs Wood & yourself will not think it prudent to defer till after Conference the Baptism of your Sarah. And I beg that no feeling of delicacy towards me may at all interfere with your own views of convenience or propriety. If, however, you decide in favour of delay, I shall have great pleasure in calling at Timperley on my way from Bristol to Leeds.

I am not yet sure whether I shall be in Manchester next week for a day, to settle my Mother's affairs pre-paratory to her removal to Skipton. If I do not come then, which I wish to avoid if I can, we shall probably all leave Liverpool on Tuesday, the 7th inst., & spend a day or two at Manchester in our road to Halifax.

My Wife joins me in best love & heartiest congratulations to Mrs W. & yourself.

I am, in much haste,
My dear Fr.d
Your obliged & affect.
J Bunting

P. S. I only reached home yesterday, therefore could not determine sooner

Mr. Wood,
Messrs. Wood & Westhead's,
High St.
Manchester.

PW aug: 1811

Liverpool. Frid. Evg

My dear Friend,—

After various projects & contrivances, I am now obliged reluctantly to abandon the idea of spending next Lord's Day with you. I find I cannot ~~get absent~~ from this Circuit on that day. And on the following Sunday, Aug. 25., our new Chapel is to be opened; your friends insist on my taking the Evening Service. Under these circumstances, I hope Mr^s^ Wood & yourself will have patience with me; & I will come from Halifax the first opportunity to Altringham, if spared, & there baptize your dear Peter, whom may God long preserve!

10½ and 6; and Monday Nov. 19, Pitt St. at 7. — If he can do this, I will take his places, God willing, on those days; in which case I can baptize your little Daughter on the 18th in the forenoon at Salford. Have the goodness to see Mr G. immediately, & let me have his answer as soon as possible; by return of Post, if you can, that I may have time to make arrangements. Where are Mr G's places on Friday and Monday, the 16th & 19th — Cannot you help me on the 18th? —

I have to beg a favour of you. If my Sister should call on you for that purpose, be so good as to lend her for me One or Two Pounds, & I will repay you.

It might lessen the expense & so render it more convenient to both of us, to make the proposed exchange, if Mr. Garrett could bring a Horse to Warrington for me to take back to Manchester; & I would endeavour, in that case, to get another in Liverpool, & bring it at the same time to Warrn., for Mr. G. to take back. Does Mr. G. think this practicable & eligible?

I am in haste; I can only assure Mrs. W. & yourself that I am

Your obliged & affect. Frd.

J Bunting.

P.S. Love to Mr Westhead, Mr Garrett, & all friends.

12 2/3
13 2/3½
14 2/5½
16 2/4
18 2/4½
20 2/5 –

Mr. Wood

Messrs. Wood & Westhead,

High Street,

Manchester.

PW

Liverpool:
Novr. 8. 1810.

My dear Friend,

My dear S. is so poorly with a Bowel-Complaint, (from which, however, she is now recovering,) that I have given up the thought of coming to Manchester this week; unless I hear that my poor Mother is materially worse. But next week, perhaps on Thursday, if all here go on well, I purpose to be in your Town, & to stay till Tuesday, the 20th; if Mr. Garrett will have the goodness to exchange with me. My proposal is, that he shall take the following places for me: viz. Friday, Nov. 16, Mount Pleasant: Sunday, Nov. 18, Pitt St.: at

gracious Providence has placed us!

In the midst of this severe trial, my dear Wife was, on Friday Evening last, safely delivered of a Boy. Both are likely to do well. Till this event was over, I could return no answer to your kind request concerning the Baptism of your Sarah. It is a request, in the subject of which I am too sincerely interested, to think of refusing compliance, if I can possibly con=trive it; but there are difficulties in the way. I do not see how I can at present leave this Circuit on the Sunday, without grieving my Colleagues & the People, unless I could exchange with Mr. Garrett. He was kind enough, before Conference, to say that he would at any time change with me for a Sunday. If the 11th of November, or ~~xxxx~~ the 18th, would suit you, & he could conveniently supply my place at Mount Pleasant or Pitt Street, I think I could venture to engage. The ~~latter~~

Sunday, I believe, would suit me better, But where should I have, in that case, to preach for Mr G.? *Must* I take three times? Cannot you send me one of the Manchester Plans before we finally fix any thing? Do you mean to baptize at Cheetham Hill, or in Manchester? And is a *Sunday* indispensable? — I will thank you to answer these enquiries immediately; as the more time I have to fix my plans the better.

I am this moment called away & must abruptly conclude. Send me all the news. How do the Lovers go on at Broolem? —

My dear S. joins me in very affect. remembrances of Mrs Wood & yourself. I am as ever

Your obliged & Faithful. &c

J Bunting.

Sunday, Sept. 30, where I have been prevailed, by downright importunity that would not be denied, to engage to preach on that day at 2½ & 6. It is the Opening of their enlarged Chapel. — Have you seen Mr Hare's "Refutation of Dr. Magee's Charges against the Methodists"? If not, get it. I think it a masterly Pamphlet, well worth reading.

Mr James Wood

Manchester.

Liverpool Oct. 26. 1810.

My dear Friend,

I desired my Sister to call on you last Monday, with a request from me, that you would send me by Coach a Catalogue of Dr. Barnes's Library. As I have neither received the Catalogue, nor heard from her, I am led to fear that it has not been duly delivered. If you have sent one, be so good as to tell me, by return of Post by which of the Coaches it came, & on what day, that I may know how to apply for it here. I suppose, however, that I am too late: & that most of the Bargains are already gone, as I see by the Papers that the Books have been on sale for the last ten days.

On the 16th. inst. our darling Mary was attacked by a most violent Inflammation of the Lungs. For some time we despaired of her life, and were in exquisite distress. Blessed be God, he had compassion on us, & she is now recovering. Her medical attendants consider it as little less than a miracle; & I receive her back as in answer to prayer. May we be duly affected & influenced by this new obligation under which a

Owing partly to the hurry of my official engagements, & partly to my ill state of health, which totally unfitted me, while in London for all exertions which were not absolutely required from me, I saw but little of the Metropolis or its concerns. I had not time to visit the Booksellers, much as I admire them, till the very day I came away; & then only for half an hour. I got one of Baynes's New Catalogues for you, which I send with this Letter; though perhaps you have it already. I shall send him an Order in a few days. If you want any-thing from him, & are inclined to send me a few lines containing the Numbers & Titles, they can come down by water along with mine, & I will forward them to you. Only, in that case, be sure to write to me immediately.

Methodism is rising rapidly in London. I was delighted & thankful to see such evident tokens of spiritual prosperity & progress.

You have had sad work, I find, in the commercial world at Manchester. I am very sorry for poor Mr Greaves. Pray tell me the

particulars, and what is likely to be the result of his business.

Have you decided to live at Timperley Hall; and if so, when will it be proper to begin to address you by your legitimate title of Esquire?

Will you never come over to L'pool to see us? I have taken not a few Journies chiefly or entirely for the sake of visiting you.

My dear S. will tell Mrs Wood, I suppose, every thing that respects herself & her expectations.

Hoping soon to hear from you all the news of Cheetham Hill & Manchester, I am, My dear Friend,

Your ever affect.

J. Bunting.

P.S. Present my love to all Enquirers. — Thank you for advancing my Coach-Fare. I remit the amount, £3.13.6., by this Parcel — If you were already settled at Timperley, I would have invited you to meet me at Northwich on

Accept our thanks for your friendly attentions to us during our late trip to your neighbourhood; & believe me to be, with love to all friends,

Your's very affect[ly]

J. Bunting.

Write soon. A short Letter is better than none; but a long one is better than a short one.

Mr. Wood,
Messrs. C[illegible] & Brothers,
Highstreet,
Manchester.

— A certain young Lady of this Town found Peace with God last Monday Morn.g This will be good news at Birmingham. I [illegible] the affair [illegible] go on: but absolute secrecy is still desired.
P.S. Two of the Leaders in Stockport have taken Rooms for a Methodist Sunday School. But probably this is old news to you. I am glad of it. It will put it out of the power of any Preacher to trim. Mr. Hare is answering Dr. Magee's Charges against the Methodists.

Liverpool Sept. 17. 1810.

My dear Friend,

It seems to be a little age, since you & I had any intercourse. Since I saw you in Manchester I have been in a perpetual bustle. We are, however, now comfortably settled once more; & have the prospect of an agreeable & prosperous year. Our new Preachers, Messrs. Entwisle and Buckley, are well received: and I should judge, from all present appearances, that the former will do well as a Superintendent.

For three months my health was in a very declining state; so much so that at times I seriously thought I should be soon called into another world. Within the last three weeks a sudden change for the better has taken place. I feel again the glow & vigour of health; and am, I hope, thankful for this blessing to Him from whom it comes.

I congratulate you & Mrs Wood on her safe delivery, & on the birth of your fourth Daughter. May she live to be a comfort to you in this world, and finally meet you in a better, to live for ever!

I infer, that he inclines to Manchester or Bolton. I have heard that he is thought of in London West.

As Newton cannot be depended upon, if Mr. Bramwell do not prefer his prior claim, it seems likely that Hare will be your Man. He will suit well.

What an agitating business this is! The Lord direct us all into our proper places!

The Catalogue you were so kind as to get me from Ford is defective. The Sheet marked E, containing pages 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, & 40, is wanting. Will you add to your former kindness by applying for the deficient Leaves? No doubt Mr. Ford can supply them; & some early opportunity of sending them may occur. It is a part of the Catalogue interesting to me; & besides, I should like it complete, for, as an acct. of curious Books, it is worth preserving. This Collection of English Theology, in octavo et infra is, I see, reserved for the Second Part of the Catalogue. Probably it has many

good Articles; but his prices are generally enormous.

The London Papers advertise the Catalogue of Priestley, who lives in Holborn, London. He used to have a good Assortment in Divinity & to sell them cheap. His Catal. may be had at Clarkes in Manchester. Suppose you look at it, as you pass some day; & if it be worth it, send it me, when you have examined the Contents.

My Wife joins me in love to Mrs Wood; to whom she sent some Oysters the other day by Coach. I hope they arrived in due season.

We found our Mary poorly the day we got home from Manchester. In the course of the following week she cut five teeth. She is now better, though not in perfect health.

We were surprized last Sunday by the company of Mrs Burton to Tea. It seems Mrs Penny is somewhat indisposed, though not so as to keep her at home.

P.S. Is there any good Divinity in Ford's
new Catalogue? If it be worth sending,
pray procure me a Copy as <u>soon</u> as it
comes out. — Mr. Allen, the good old
Supernumy. here, died on Tuesday.

Mr James Wood,
<u>Manchester</u>

MW

Liverpool. April 6.
1810.

My dear Friend,

I thank you for your Letter of last week, which I had impatiently expected.

Our Quarterly Meeting has agreed to petition for two out of the following List; viz. Moore, Griffith, Johnson, Entwisle, Marsden, Isaac. These have all been asked for before. The Stewards proposed to add, Lomas, Hare, & W. Williams; but it was thought six was a sufficient number. Mr. Moore, I believe, will stay in London; and report says that Mr. Johnson wishes to be in that neighbourhood, to settle his Son.

The Sheffielders petition for two out of the following three; Bramwell, Entwisle, Robt. Smith. Mr. Bramwell has replied, that if Conference send him, he will go; but that it is his opinion he is called this year not to go to any Circuit, where he has been stationed before. Hence

difficulties of the System, & ought to be unmasked. Yet Mr. S. should not persist to charge modern Calvinists with horrible consequences from ~~those~~ positions, which <u>they</u> disclaim. In the statements which they themselves avow, there is good & sufficient ground of attack. — As for me I am tired of warfare, & mean to be as quiet as duty will let me. If I do commence po-lemic, it will be, I think, on the Sunday School question. But strongly as I feel the abominations which are done in the midst of us in that way, I am at present more disposed, though with a doubting conscience, to sigh & cry for

them in private, than to attack them in public, until imperiously necessitated so to do.

Mr. Burton will tell you how we are going on here.

Will you ever come & see us? I fear our sorry accommodations & unsettled state, when you were with us before, have excited an invincible disgust.

Write soon; & tell me what you know in the Stationing way. — Stephens is answering Crowther's Pamphlet against Petitioning.

With love to all friends, & best wishes for you & yours, I am Your ever faithful &c. J. Bunting.

It is near 11 o'clock P.M.; and I must conclude my scrawl. God Almighty bless you! Do write directly. I am as ever

Very affect.ly Yours.

J Bunting.

Mr. Wood,

Manchester.

PW

8. Hunter St., L'pool. Feb. 23. 1810.

My dear Friend,

I thank you for your Note; and send you this in return, on the well-known principle of quid pro quo.

Mr. Roby's Pamphlet I have not yet read through. Accept my acknowledgments for your kind attention in sending it. How coolly he writes: & how much does this give him the advantage over his Opponent! I hear Mr. Smyth is preparing an Answer. I hope he will be more guarded & temperate. Mr. Roby's Statement of Calvinism is well calculated to hide the real deformities &

&c &c. When is Mr James Wroton to be in Manchester? Pray give my love to him, and say, it might *perhaps* be worth his while to extend his excursion as far as Liverpool. We shall be very happy to see him. Cannot you & he come together?

I thank God we are all tolerably well. I am directed by an Authority, which I do not wish to disobey, to tell Mrs Wood, that Mary is not yet weaned, and that she began to go alone on her Birth-day, some six or seven weeks ago. My Wife joins me in love to Mrs W. & yourself, to Mr & Mrs Westhead, & to all friends.

We have nothing extraordinary here: but a good & progressive work of God in the ordinary way. Our *neat* increase last quarter was about 94. We are about to build a new Chapel, near Dalby Street, London Road.

I never heard so little metho-
-distical news as at present. Of course
I have little or nothing to communicate.

Mr. Bramwell has been three
weeks in Yorkshire. I believe he is come
home tonight, but have not seen him.
Did he preach for you in Manchester?

Have you begun to talk of Stations
in your Town? March Quarter-Day will
soon arrive, & Conference will not be long
after it. How rapid is the march of time
& how fast our years waste! You & I, who
were lads so lately, shall soon be in middle
life; perhaps soon cease to live. May we
live & die well; & be "proved by the ends of being
to have been".

What news from Stockport, Oldham,
& Middleton?

I take the liberty of sending to you a
Parcel for Mr. Hare. Please to let one of your
Men take it to the Sheffield Coach Office, that
it may be forwarded to him without delay.

-not you come in Jan.y or February, & help us to dedicate our little one to God? You have been present at our two former solemnities of that kind; and we, I think, have also witnessed the presentation of all your Children to God & his Church. Will you be the first to ~~[illegible]~~ our friendly communion in these matters? Do write immediately, and tell us you will come. We will then try very shortly to fix the day. At all events, let me have a Letter in a Post or two. Present our very affect. regards to Mrs Wood, & to the Children; & remember us also to Mr & Mrs Westhead, Mr & Mrs Greaves, Mr & Mrs Marsden, & all old friends, when you see them. Give my love to Mr Entwisle, and tell him I shall write very soon.

Waiting your reply, & hoping that it will furnish me with all the Manchester News, I remain as ever Most sincerely Yours in the best bonds, J. Bunting

Mr Wood,
Messrs. Wood & Westhead,
High St.
Manchester.

SHEFFIELD

DW

No. 8, Hunter St. Liverpool;
Jany. 26. 1810.

My very dear Friend,

Eight weeks have elapsed since we were to have seen you at this place; and we have neither seen nor heard of you. When will you come? I want much to have a confab. with you. Now I have often taken Journies to Manchester for the sake, in a great measure, of an interview with you. It really is your turn, even if you have no other business, to come & spend some leisure day with me. But you have so often said "Sir, I come", & come not, that I rather wish than hope for such a proof that our old friendship still lives in all its pristine vigour. If you will not come, pray write; & tell us all about Mrs. Wood, yourself, your young folks, Methodism,

not reach her till late on Thursday. The occasion & subject of it will be my apology to you. I wish to relieve her anxiety as soon as possible.

I thank you for sending me Fawcett's Sermon: for which I owe you sixpence, a debt so small that I can have no excuse if I do not sometime discharge it.

I had a very pleasant Tour in the North last Month. I left home Nov. 4th, visited Sunderland, North Shields, South Shields, Newcastle, Durham, and York, & returned to Sheffield on the 16th of the same Month, gratified with my excursion, & much pleased with some of the acquaintance I had formed in consequence of it. The Collection at Durham was near £60, including £10. which were sent from London for the purpose of aiding it. Methodism, in that part of the Country, is in a rising way. The fields are white unto harvest.

Mr. Burton is very well, very acceptable, & I doubt not, very useful. I find him a pleasant Colleague; so, too, is Mr Hare, our

other Neighbours, with whose acuteness, general cleverness, and accurate knowledge of Divinity, I am often greatly delighted: — and so, in fine, are Mr Myles & Mr Grindrod, who reside at Norfolk St.

It is a month or more since I heard from Mr Griffith. I do not think that our affairs in London are in the most pleasant state; though Mr G. seems on the whole to be happy there, and is, I hear, as he deserves to be, greatly respected. Dr Clarke's friends are in a very bad humour. He, Mr G. says, is apparently on cordial terms with the Brethren in the Metropolis, and preaches on a Sunday.

Mr Burton has shewed me your new Plan. You have metamorphosed, & I think, (but though I tell you my thoughts, I would not tell them ~~to~~ every body so freely,) spoiled & injured your Circuit. To preach 3 times in such Chapels, besides reading Lessons, & meeting the Society, & occasionally administering Baptism or the Lord's Supper, & ~~visiting the Society~~ is in my judgment more than any man should do, because more than any man can do well, & as it ought to be done. You, I hear, are of a different mind; so, we will agree to disagree. Such a Body of People as you are might, however, easily support a fifth Preacher.

O that we could tempt you & Mrs Wood to come & see us! A thought just now strikes me. Can

Mr. Wood,

Messrs. Wood & Westheads,

High St.

Manchester

Favd. by
Mr. Fentem.

P. S. Pray is Mrs. Marsden restored to her Office as a Leader?

Sheffield. Dec. 13. 1808.

My dear Friend,

Your Letters to me are so uniformly short & hasty, that I really find it quite a task to ~~obtain~~ materials for a regular & frequent correspondence with you. And yet, though I have seldom any thing of yours to answer, & therefore know not what to say, I do not like to be long silent. In this dilemma, it is quite a relief to my exhausted ingenuity, when any thing occurs which may be fairly made the subject of a Letter, & which is at once interesting to myself & to my friend. Such an event has taken place this morning. You and Mrs. Wood, I doubt not, will rejoice with us when I tell you what it is. At about twenty minutes past nine o'clock, my dear S. was safely delivered of a fine Girl. Her previous Labour was very tedious, but not particularly difficult or hazardous. She is as well as can be expected; and the little welcome Stranger is also at present likely to live & do well. The Lord be praised!

Together with this you will receive another Letter, post-paid, which is directed to my Mother, & which I will trouble you to send to her as soon as convenient. I have taken the liberty of addressing it to your care, because by this mode she will probably get it tomorrow evening, whereas in the ordinary way it would

well. I hope my wife will write to Mrs Wood by Mr Brorton next week. In the mean time she joins me in love to her, yourself, & the little folks, as well as to all old friends. Remember me also affect.y to Mr Entwisle, when you see him; and say that I duly received his Letter.

May I trouble you also to send one of your Servants with the inclosed Note to my Mother; I believe their new House is somewhere not very far from your Back-Door. I will direct the Answer, with your leave, to be left at your Warehouse; and will thank you to give it to Mr Fenton, when he calls for the Sermon.

I see no probability of my visiting Manchester on this side Christmas;

as, in consequence of repeated impor-
tunities from the Sunderland Preachers,
and from Mr Ward & Mr Benson, I have
partly consented to go to Durham
early in November, to open the
new Chapel there. After my return
it will too be time to give Tickets, &
this will detain me at home,
till Winter will be so completely
arrived, as perhaps to prevent
[illegible]lling over the Hills. – trave[illegible]

Farewell! The Lord have you
& yours in his holy keeping. Believe
me to be, as ever,

Your most obliged
& affectionate,
J. Bunting.

When will you "perform your
oft-repeated vow" by paying us a visit?

Mr. Wood,

Oldham St.

Manchester

JM

Sheffield. Oct. 18. 1808.

My dear Friend,

I embrace the opportunity of Mr. Fentem's Journey to your Town to remind you that you owe me a Letter, and that like Creditors in general I am impatient for payment. I am anxious to hear from you the Manchester News both domestic and ecclesiastical. Pray write a long Epistle by Mr. Fentem.

May I trouble you to procure for me, & to forward by the same Conveyance, Mr. Fawcett's Sermon on "The Holiness which becometh the House of the Lord", preached at the opening of the Chapel in New York St., Manchr. It is sold by Richardson & by Hopper in Market St. Lane. The price will be 6d, which I will pay you when we meet. Mr. Griffith, who heard the discourse delivered, spoke so highly of it, that I am solicitous to see it.

We are all, through mercy, tolerably

that I never talk in this way for mere talking's sake.

I think we have the prospect of being more thoroughly comfortable this year than we sometimes were the last. We now feel naturalized to the place & to the people: and Time has in some measure effaced the gloomy impressions with which our entrance into Sheffield was accompanied, owing to the loss of our ever-to-be-lamented Child.

I am pleased with all my new Colleagues. —— Mr Burton is very well, & I think comfortable. He is much improved as a Preacher. He will not only be acceptable, but, I judge, popular among us.

William is very stout & hearty. My wife is as well as can be expected.

I have as yet received but one Letter from our worthy friend Mr. Griffith; and that was written soon after his arrival in London, and before his house was ready for his reception.

I have some hope that Mr. Entwistle will call at Sheffield, during his intended excursion into Yorkshire. If he do, pray write by him. If not, let me have a Letter, with all your news, personal, domestic, and ecclesiastical, by a very early Post.

Present our united love to Mrs. Wood & all friends; & accept the same yourself. — Believe me to be,

My dear Friend,

Most affect.ly Yours,

J. Bunting.

which, I suppose, you would prefer, with all its faults, to the new one, which is somewhat altered.

It is also likely that business will call me to Macclesfield in about 3 weeks. If this should be the case, perhaps I can contrive to spend one night at Manchester. — Let me have a Letter without

Mr. Wood,
Messrs. Wood & Westhead,
High Street,
Manchester.

fail on Saturday by Mr. Fenton. Give us all the news of your domestic, social, and ecclesiastical circles. My dear Mrs. B. joins me in love to you & Mrs. Wood, to Mr. & Mrs. T. Burton, Mr. & Mrs. Westhead, & all enquirers. Believe me to be with best wishes for the best interests of you & yours. Your obliged & faithful Friend

J. Bunting.

Sheffield. Sep. 29. 1808.

My very dear Friend,

I cannot suffer my Mother & Sister to return to Manchester, without making them the Bearers of a Line or two to you.

And first of all, let me be permitted to entreat that you and Mrs. Wood will accept my best thanks, & those of my dear S., for your most hospitable attentions to us Yours, during our recent visits to you. On this subject I would say more, if I did not fear that more would be disagreeable to you. Less I cannot say, in justice to the grateful feelings of my own heart. You know, I think,

see no reason to doubt that Sheffield will agree with his constitution; especially as we hope in three months to move into one of the new houses now building, the situation of which will have the advantage of an almost-country-air. Now that we are more accustomed to the place, & to the people & their manners, we begin to feel tolerably comfortable; and probably should be very happy, could we entirely divest ourselves of those gloomy recollections of our domestic loss, which will officiously mingle themselves with all our enjoyments, especially while we continue to be conversant with the scenes where that loss was first so acutely felt. The Society at large, we think, are more deeply pious than any we have before seen; and, at the same time, what I hardly expected, more free as a Body than most others from the extravagancies & follies of enthu=siasm. At this I am the more surprized, because few of them have attained to any considerable degree of mental improvement, or possess much general intelligence. However, I feel a ~~large~~ high degree of pastoral affection & esteem for them; though I do not seem likely to form here any of those strong personal friendships, which so powerfully contributed

to make my last Circuit peculiarly pleasant. "The best of all is, God is with us." We are now busy in the Quarterly visitation; and have reason to believe there is a great increase, both of Numbers, & of Piety, in various parts of the Circuit.

It is not certain yet for what Preachers the good folks here will agree to ask. Messrs. Myles, Entwisle, Lomas, Marsden, Ward, Mac Nichol, and Gellard are talked of, as likely to be put on their List, that the Conference may send three out of them. Probably another married Preacher or two may be added at the Quarterly Meeting. What steps are you taking, or intending to take, in Manch[illegible] Are y[illegible] unanimous in your views & wishes? I hear you it is not improbable that your very worthy Bishop will have a call to City Road. I know no person so fit for that Station, if Mr. Moore do not claim it.

What a sad business you have had at the Infirmary! How does Mr. Gw. seem affected by it? — I was very glad indeed to hear of MacIlrath's honourable acquittal.

I have not yet got the 5th. vol. of Leighton. As I expect to be in London the first or second week in May, I purpose to procure it then, as well as the Life of Wesley by Dr. Whitehead. I think I can get the original Edition.

P.S. Remember us affect.y to Mr. & Mrs. Westhead, and to all our dear friends in Manchr., who may chance to mention us, as if their names were particularized.

Mr. Wood,
Rotherham Jr.
at the care of Mr. Griffith's,
Manchester.
Favd by Mr. Brown

If you could spend Sunday [illegible] 25. or Novr. 1. here, I think I could contrive to return with you to Manchester for three or four days of the week following. Only I must have timely notice.

William has the Hooping Cough; but we hope will do well.

Mr

Sheffield. March 15. 1808.

My very dear Friend,

Our first year in Sheffield is rapidly hastening to its termination; and you have never yet fulfilled your solemn promise by visiting us even for a day! — When will you confer that favour upon us? Do not wait for Mr Griffith; for I fear August will come, before an opportunity occurs, at which it will chance to be convenient for both of you to leave home at the same time. — Is your Brother yet at Doncaster? If so, I wonder that the attractions of kindred, super-added to those of friendship, have not long before now drawn you into Yorkshire. When you do come, be sure to spend a Sabbath with us. I shall be in the country on the 20th & 27th inst; and in or near the Town on each of the four subsequent Sundays. Pray fix on some one of these; and inform me by the Bearer, Mr Fenton, on which of them I may expect you. It will greatly rejoice us, if Mrs Wood will do us the honour to accompany you.

Through mercy we are all well. William is become once more a stout, hearty Lad; and we

faint. My dear wife was much obliged to Mrs Wood for her friendly Letter, which she proposes soon to answer. She is as well as can be expected; & unites with me in best love to you both, and in grateful acknowledgments for many kind offices received from you, during our residence in Manchester, which we shall always remember, & wish we had any adequate means of requiting. But what you have done you did for the Lord's sake: & we pray that he will bless you & yours with all the mercies of the New Covenant.

We have the prospect of being very comfortable in our new situation. The Circuit seems to be as agreeable as most; and the people are disposed to shew us much kindness. I am almost entirely at home; & need sleep out only two nights in eight weeks at most. I am exceedingly pleased with all my Colleagues; & I hope

I shall be more & more satisfied that I have a Commission from God to the people of these parts.

When you have opportunity, you will oblige us by sending to the Carrier's Warehouse the Barrel of Black Beer, which you kindly took under your charge, directed to Mr. B., near the Methodist Chapel, Carver St., Sheffield.

Do indulge me with a long Letter soon; and send me all the Manchester News. We hope the Altring Air ~~will~~ has [redacted] useful to Mrs. Wo & the Children — When will you come to Sheffield? You & Mr. Griffith are under promise to visit us. As Mary is weaned, could not Mrs. Wood come & comfort her afflicted friend?

I must conclude; for I have ~~many~~ greatly [redacted] exceeded the time allowed me. Farewell, my dear Friend! May the good Lord have your spirit in his holy keeping! Believe me to be as ever, & more than ever,

Your obliged & faithful Frd. J. Bunting

P.S. — I will be obliged to you to take an early opportunity of paying for me the following sums: viz.

To Mr D. Burton, for 1 year's Interest of £15,
Lent by him to my Mother, £0.. 15.. 0.

To Mr Jno Marsden, Dale St, for Do, — 0.. 15.. 0.

These sums I will repay, when I see you.

Mr Wood
Falkner St.
Manchester

Last Thursday the London Quarterly Meeting agreed to petition for 5 Married Preachers, (Messrs. Clarke, Bogie, Johnson, Entwisle, & Jacob Stanley,) and for two Single Men. —— It now seems probable that Mr Benson will stop in London as Editor another year. —

BW

Sheffield. Sept. 29. 1807.

My very dear Friend,

Though I have time to write but little, the Gentleman who is to take this to Mr. Owen for conveyance to Manchester, being actually waiting for that purpose, I cannot persuade myself wholly to lose so good an opportunity. In a Letter to you I need not stop to weigh my words, & measure my periods; so that I am the less scrupulous in venturing on any inaccuracies which haste may occasion.

A great part of our melancholy history since we left Manchester, you have already learned from the Letters which I addressed to my Mother. We have had many mercies, it is true, which it would be a crying sin to forget; but the loss of our dear little Girl damps all our earthly joys, & will long be felt by us as a most painful bereavement. It is impossible to describe the sensations of desolation which we feel. But I hope we do not murmur, though we sorrow; and that Divine Grace enables us to <u>feel</u> but not to

Doctors disagree"? — My answer is, God, & the Conference, who to me, in this business are God's Representatives.

We had been led to hope that we should see you in London when Mr Bulmer returned: but are disappointed. Is it likely that we shall have that pleasure before we leave Town?

Your Quarterly Meeting is, I suppose, now over. I am desirous to know what your proceedings were on the subject of Petitions to Conference. If they have altered their minds about me, pray be faithful, & inform me of it. You will particularly oblige me, if you will favour me by return of Post with all the details of what passed on this business. It is of some consequence to me to know ~~with~~ whom, if I come to Manch^r., I am likely to have for my fellow-labourers.

Am I right in concluding, from the information I have received, that though the printed Plan frequently requires your Preachers

to officiate, when in Town, thrice on the Lord's Day, it is however contrary to the usual practice, & will be neither desired nor expected of me? This is a material circumstance. In addition to our own services, I preached a third time yesterday, in order to oblige Mr. Dan. Taylor, the General Baptist. The consequence, I have felt most of the night; and am extremely Mondayish, this morning.

Is Dr. Alexander returned to the Society? — I will trouble you with the delivery of a copy of my Sermon to him; and also with one for Albiston, and one for Mr. Clarke, who, I hope, will accept it as a small acknowledgment in return for his obliging present of the Discourse to the Philological Society.

We are glad to hear that Mrs. Wood is ^employed^ doing well, & hope she will continue to do so. My dear Sarah unites with me in love to her & to yourself. — Remember me affecty. to Mr. Burton, & all friends. Do write by the next Post; & believe me to be, as ever,

Your's affecty.

J. Bunting.

gratuitously by the Faculty. And this exemption should be an acknowledged general rule, that the feeling of individual obligation may be rendered less oppressive." On this principle I have frequently known him act. It is true he afterwards says that "such of the Clergy as are qualified, either from their stipends or fortunes, to make a reasonable remuneration for medical attendance, are not more privileged than any other class of Patients." And perhaps his Executors supposed that in such a place as Manch^r. the stipend of such a man as M^r. Clarke could not but be liberal. Indeed as medical expences among us are not paid by the Preacher out of his stated Income, but by the Society,

Mr. Wood
Messrs. Wood & [illegible]
Marsden Square,
Manchester.
Single Sheet

it may admit of doubt whether a Physician is under any obligation to recede in our case from his usual demands; since they fall not on an individual, but on a body of people, generally able enough to discharge them. — I do not think that the late Law, prohibiting triennial stations, will on any acc^t. be violated so soon as the next Conference. — Did y^r. Quarterly Meet^g propose to petition for any other Preacher besides myself? If I succeed M^r. Pipe, who will succeed, think you, Messrs. Clarke & Fearnshaw? — M^r. Benson will probably leave London in August. I believe in that case Bristol will be his destination. — My paper will not allow of enlargement. Pray write to me in a day or two; tell me freely your thoughts on what I have written; & send me all your country news. I will then without fail answer you very shortly. Love to all friends. I am yours affect^y.
J. Bunting.

Mr

London: July 1. 1805.

My very dear Friend,

You will see by the inclosed Sermon that I have been persuaded to turn Author. I request your acceptance of a Copy, as a small proof of my affectionate remem-brance of you, & of my confidence in your friendly dispositions towards me.

I think I have made up my mind to sacrifice all my personal feelings & inclinations, by consenting to come to Manchester, if the Conference ~~think~~ deem it proper to appoint me. This I have intimated in answer to applications from Birmingham, Blackburn, Leeds, Wakefield, & Sheffield. I can now do nothing more, to prove the respect I am disposed to pay to the importunities of my Manchester Friends. May the Lord himself direct & decide. To him I cheerfully commit my cause. — Mr. Jenkins, in a Letter received from him last week, tells me ~~that~~ my call, in his opinion, is ~~to~~ Sheffield. How prone we are to plead divine authori-ty in favour of our own views & wishes. — You tell me, in al~~most~~ the same words, that my providential call is to Manchester. — Now "who shall decide when

is too soon for me to appear in Manchester as one of their stated Preachers. Some years hence, if spared, I may, through divine assistance, be more likely to fill that station with advantage to the People, with some degree of credit to the Ministry, and with pleasure to myself.

This leads me to say that my personal feelings also shrink from the appointment proposed. I have somehow contracted an unconquerable aversion to all large Towns. I think them very unfriendly ~~both~~ to intellectual improvemt. and to spiritual prosperity, especially in the case of a Young Preacher. Manchester is to me particularly objectionable. My acquaintance there is already too large; and, if I am stationed in it, will of necessity become still larger. I fear I should be obliged to be often in company, either in my own house or in those of others, when I ought to be in my Study; and to live more in public than I can ever bring myself to do with comfort. —— There is another thing, which to you in confidence I can state. You well know, that the cast & character of our minds are materially influenced & moulded by the external circumstances in which we are placed. A young man who is fixed year after year in those very prominent situations, wch call him much into publicity & activity, is in danger of becoming, insensibly & by slow degrees, too public & too active. His temptations to presumption & forwardness are multiplied. I do therefore seriously think that a small, obscure, country circuit would be better for me than a large Town; especially as my constitutional disposition is more ardent, than is perhaps at all times consistent with the meekness and gentleness of Christ. I am prone to think & speak with an excess of decision and energy. If I am providentially placed in such a Station, as those before alluded to, I seem bound to enter with all my soul into all the duties & all the business connected with it. But this creates occasions of temptation; and I am jealous as to the effect of such exposures on the moral habitudes of my own mind.

You now ~~see~~ know, my dear ~~Friend~~, how I think & feel on the subject of your Letter. You will therefore perceive, that I cannot say, as you desire, I have no objections to be fixed in Manchestr. — However, on the whole I think it best, though not without some scruples to the contrary, to be, as I hitherto have been, quiet and passive in these matters. If it be still thought proper to petition for me, and the Conference make the appointment, though I shall have many doubts as to wisdom of their decision, I shall then have none as to my own duty to comply with it. In that case I shall enter on my work, with much fear & trembling indeed, but with humble hope that the way of Providence will ultimately be (if I am not wanting to myself,) the way of profit & advantage. As far as I can at present judge, I must leave the business with God & my Brethren. You will be so good as to communicate such of the above particulars as you deem proper, (the whole would be too tedious & uninteresting,) together with my best love & respects, to all whom they may concern. May the goo[d Lord] himself chuse our inheritance for us all, & determine f[rom] year to year the bounds of our habitation!

I hope Mrs Wood's health is better than formerly; though you do not mention it. My dear Sarah joins me in affectionate regards to her; & bids me say that she intends to answer ~~her~~ obliging Letter very soon. The reason of the delay, which has hitherto occurred, is, I believe, exactly the reverse of what ~~Mrs~~ Wood, as you tell me, has conjectured.

I was surprized to hear that Dr Percival's Executors had taken four Guineas from Mr Clarke. The Doctor himself would have done no such thing. The following is the 18th Rule of the 2d Ch. of his "Medical Ethics". After having said that Members of the Medical Profession, together with their wives & children shd be attended gratuitously, he adds, "Clergymen, who experience the res angusta domi shd also be visited

Mr. James Wood,

Falkner St.

Manchester

Favoured by
Mr. John Burton. }

PW London: April 1. 1805.

My dear Friend,

Being absent from home, when your Letter arrived, I received it only three days ago. — I must begin this answer to it by expressing my grateful acknowledgments to the persons, who composed your late Quarterly Meeting in Manchester, for the good opinion which they entertain of me, and for the application with which they have honoured me. But I fear, and indeed I am sure, that they very much over-rate my qualifications for the important situation, wh. they wish me to occupy among them. The kindness of the request, however, in connexion with the similar partiality which some of them have formerly discovered, demanded my serious attention to their proposal: And I will with all frankness and simplicity detail to you my thoughts on the subject.

My social feelings strongly incline me to wish for such an appointment. To be so near to my dear Mother & Sisters would certainly be a high gratification to me, & might enable me to contribute, more effectually than I otherwise could, to the comfort of the former, under the pressure of infirmities & declining years. Most of my other intimate friends & connexions, too, are in Manchester or its neighbourhood. And I should greatly prize the opportunity of spending a year with one, whom I so much respect as yourself.

My public feelings are decidedly against such an appointment. I must be allowed to know the state of my own ministerial attainments much better than others can; and I am satisfied that they are not at present such as they should be, before I am stationed for Manchester. I am a very young man, & a very young Preacher. My Manchr. Friends have not forgotten me as the Boy they once knew. Nor are my qualifications for the Pulpit, be they in themselves what they may, sufficiently matured to secure for me, in my native town, that permanent attention & respect, which are in my judgment, almost essential to the due reception & complete success of ministerial exertions. Destitute in a great measure both of personal influence, and of that consideration which is conferred by age & well-cultivated Talents, I think it

I am glad to hear that Mrs. Wood is in better health; & hope she will continue to enjoy that blessing. My dear S. is, through mercy, as well as usual. She thanks Mrs. Wood for her most welcome Letter; & unites with me in affectionate regards to you both.

Remember me also in proper terms, to all friends. Write very soon; & believe me to be

Yours in great haste
but in greater love,

J. Bunting.

P.S.

What _hair-brained_ work has been going on lately at Stockport! Much as I detest some of the Abominations which have been wont to defile the Sanctuary there, it is impossible not to condemn the violent method which,

if my information be correct, has been taken to suppress ~~them~~.

What say the Manchester Critics of the Eclectic Review? The strong passage in the 1st Number, which intimates that Calvinism is unanswered & unanswerable is a grievous departure from the profession of Catholicism contained in the Prospectus & in the Preface. I believe some apology for it will appear in the 2d Numb[er]

Particular love to Albirton. How goes he on? ___

Mr. James Wood,

at Messrs. Wood & Westhead,

Marsden Square,

Manchester.

Fav.d by
Mr. Thos. Entwisle.

AW

London. Jan. 21. 1805.

My dear friend,

Why did you not write to me by Mr. John Burton, or at least by some conveyance before this time? Have I offended you by remaining so long your debtor? If so, I beg pardon; & wish to repair my error by immediate pay=ment. I inclose for that purpose Three Notes, for One Pound each. Half this sum I owe to yourself. The remaining sum (£1..15..0) will be due to the Executors of Mrs Barlow on the 19th of February, 1805, for half a year's Interest of £70. This I will trouble you to pay for me. I understand Mr D. Burton transacts their business at Rhodes; & probably he will receive it for them from you, & give you an acknowledgment.

Mr James Wood,

Falkner St.,

Manchester.

Favoured by
W. Wood.

PW

London: Novr. 21. 1804.

My very dear Friend,

I cannot inclose a Letter which my Sarah has just given me for Mrs. Wood, without writing a line to remind you that you have <u>long owed</u> me a <u>long Letter</u>, & to beg that you will pay without further delay your epistolary debt. Send me all your Circuit-News.

If your amiable Brother be still with you, I will thank you to present to him my respectful compts. — I shall be glad to hear that he is restored to health & activity. [illegible] I render any services to him, when [illegible] comes to London? If I can, I need not say it will afford me sincere pleasure.

Remember me affectionately to Mrs. W., and to all that enquire after [illegible]

Your ever affect. Friend,

J. Bunting.

where we hope to be comfortably settled in about a week from this date. Our worthy friend Mr. Myles is not a little disappointed by his late order to remove from London so soon.

When shall you be in Town, and what stay shall you make? Write to me immediately, & tell me these particulars. They may perhaps help me to fix some plan for a Journey of my own to Manchester, which I have in contemplation, but on which I cannot yet determine. If I do resolve upon it, I should like to have your company either up or down.

After next week, when you write to me by Post, direct for "Mr. Bunting, ~~near~~ Mr. Wesley's Chapel, Crosby Row, Snowsfields, Southwark, London.

I must once more trouble you to transact a little business for me. I am accountable to Mrs. Barlow, in the place of my good Mother, for another

half-year's Interest of £70., due a few days ago, amounting to £1..15..0. That sum I will thank you to take the earliest opportunity of paying to her, with my best respects. Your attention to this will greatly oblige me. I [illegible] repay you the Money erelong.

I hope I need not say that we shall expect you at Snowsfields, when you next visit Town. Humble as will be our abode, compared with many others, I trust you will not despise it. If it were ten thousand times better, you know that friendship & gratitude would give you heartiest welcome to all the accommodations it possessed.

I owe a Letter to my friend Albiston. That debt I have not forgotten. When our Bustle is over, I intend to discharge it. In the mean time present my love & my Sarah's to him, to Mrs Wood (of whose improving health we are anxious to hear) & to all friends. — I am, my dear Friend.

Yours in everlasting love,

J. Bunting

Albiston, and to all friends. — I will try to snatch time for a Letter or two to you, during Conference. But you must be aware that I am *peculiarly* occupied, & shall be. I will do my best. As soon as I hear with any certainty

Mr. James Wood,
Falkner St.
Manchester.

Favd. by
Miss Bunting.

P.S. Though I said [illegible] I thought Mr. Jenkins' stay, if it could be [illegible] accomplished, is highly desirable, I [illegible] am not so selfish as to wish you [illegible] knows him must allow him to be the [illegible] decent successor to Mr. J. that under [illegible] circumstances could be [illegible]

what your appointment is, you may depend on my giving you early information. I am,

My dear friend,

Very affectionately Your's

J. Bunting

Pray write to me; & let me know how matters go on among you.

London: Aug^st 19. 1804.

My dear Friend,

I should have written to you at the close of the Conference by some of the Preachers then leaving Town; but was at that time confined to my room by a rheumatic complaint in my head; from which, blessed be God, I am now perfectly recovered.

This Letter will be conveyed by Mr. Wood, your new Superintendant; whom I doubt not you will love most when you know him best. All things considered, I still think it was best to abolish, at least for the present, the practice of triennial appointments: though had any exceptions been allowed, I grant the case of Mr. Jenkins at Manchester should have been one. I trust you will see great & increasing prosperity.

Knowing, as you do, my warm attachment to Messrs. Entwisle & Lomas, you will readily conclude that I rejoice exceedingly in their appointment to London. I hope to profit greatly by the opportunities of friendly intercourse with them which I shall enjoy.

We are preparing to remove to Snowsfields.

also, so interesting. — My dear wife, through mercy, is vastly better. Her Journey to Margate has been rendered very serviceable to her health. I only fear lest the bustle of Conference should tempt her to exertions, to which her strength is inadequate, & by which she might be seriously injured.

You have been, I find, in the wars of late. My private opinion certainly is, that if Mr Jenkins could _quietly_ & _comfortably_ have remained with you, it would have been _highly_ desirable. As there is so serious & respectable an opposition, however, if I were he, I would absolutely & at once resign all claims of the kind. Indeed a great majority, I believe, of the Conference, will decidedly oppose _all_ triennial appointments. In some cases, I think, they would do good. In others they would do harm. And I begin to be of opinion that, as the Conference cannot distinguish between the former & the latter cases, without subjecting

themselves to the clamour, which any *imputation* of partiality, would immediately excite; nor without giving fresh occasion for strifes & jealousies among both Preachers & People; they had better revive & enforce their old Rule. I grant that in some instances this will be hard: but such is the present state of the world & of human nature, that the innocent must often suffer for the guilty; & the wishes of the good must be [illegible]d, in order to prevent the workin[g] of corruption in the bad.

I have heard nothing yet of the Manchester Appointment. Indeed the Stationing Committee have not yet reached your part of the world. But from the strong aversion to triennial stations, which I have heard the leading men express, I believe Mr. Wood, not Mr. Jenkins, will be your Bishop. If Mr. Hearnshaw move, he must without doubt come to London. I am in a state of suspense, though not of anxiety. The probability is that I shall stay again.

Remember us affectionately to Mrs. Wood, to

me. It would be endless to mention names; so I give you, once for all, a general commission.

When is it most likely that you will make your intended journey to London? Tell me this, as nearly as you can, in your next. — Farewell, my very

Mr. James Wood,
Falkner St.,
Manchester.

[illegible] upon
[illegible] safety

dear Friend. May the good Lord preserve us unto his heavenly kingdom. Here we are disunited by distance of place. Let us be diligent to be found of him in peace, that we may be there eternally united. I am

Your's in everlasting friendship J. Bunting.

P.S. I have good accounts from Macclesfield. —

London. July 26. 1804.

My very dear Friend,

I thank you for the two very kind & interesting Letters with which you have favoured me, since I last wrote.

I and my Sarah were very glad to hear of your pleasant journey, and safe arrival at home. To be preserved from all dangerous accidents, during so long an expedition, ought to excite a lively spirit of gratitude & praise. For doubtless, to secure that preservation, many interpositions of Divine Providence were needed, & actually, though to you invisibly, afforded. But the hand which protects & blesses us is not the less kind & gracious, because, to the eye of sense at least, it is unseen.

We hope Mrs Wood's health is in a somewhat better state than when you wrote first. In your last Epistle, you strangely omit noticing the subject, though to you, & to us

not on duty. Two of them, for this only crime, have received two hundred lashes; and one, who was a Corporal, is also reduced to the ranks. At the time when our intelligence came away, another of our Brethren was under sentence of 500 Lashes. — This matter is likely to be very seriously taken up by several Gentlemen in London; as such military tyranny is completely illegal. — In Jamaica also they continue to pass & enforce penal laws against us. — If the Government here wink at these attacks upon Religious Liberty, I shall begin to fear for the safety of the country. God will avenge his Church on all her oppressors, wherever he find them.

Dr. Coke went down to Gravesend on Tuesday, in order to sail for America. It is doubtful whether he will be permitted to return to Europe. — Mr. Benson is likely, I think, to make great & successful exertions for the improvement of our Magazine next year. He is entering on his new office as Editor, with great spirit & vigour. — Mr. Jay of Bath is in Town. I hope to hear him this forenoon at Rowl.d Hill's Chapel. — Two more pious Clergymen, of considerable eminence, have lately left the Establishment, on the same grounds as those urged by the late Mr. Simpson of Macclesfield; & particularly; because they could no longer conscientiously

read the Burial Service at the graves of wicked & ungodly persons. It is to me an unaccountable marvel, that so many good men should continue to submit to this grievous requisition, and saint in the Church-Yard, at their Deaths, the very characters whom they damned from the Pulpit, during their lives. But interest & situation have an amazing influence even on the best minds. "Lead us not into Temptation". — The Clergymen, above alluded to, are Mr. Williams, late of [illegible] Wycombe, and Mr. Brookes of Bright[illegible] of Heyw[illegible] [illegible] will receive from my good [illegible] You this [illegible] the money which you have [illegible] advanced on my account: vizt. £2..19..0 for the Chest, and £1..15..0 to Mrs. Barlow: Total £4..14..0. Accept my best thanks for this & all your offices of love. — My Mother will also give you the Deeds of which I spoke to you; & which I will trouble you to lock up for me in some place of safety. —

I entreat & beseech you to write to me soon: why not by ~~the next~~ Post? Be very ample & minute in your communications. Tell me how my good & valuable friend Albiston is going on. He promised to write to me long ago; but has failed. Where is Jno. Heywood, & what is he doing? — I beg my affectionate respects to Mrs. Wood; to Albiston, Mr. G. Burton, & in fine, to all who do me the honour to remember or enquire after

To

Mr. Wood

at the Warehouse of Messrs Wood & Westhead,

Cannon Street

Manchester.

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Single only.

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London. Septr. 23d. 1803.

My very dear Friend,

If I have not written to you until now, since my arrival in this Metropolis, it is not because I had forgotten you, but because my time and attention have been more than usually occupied by a variety of engagements, resulting from my removal to a new Circuit.

I have now been in London one month; and, as far as I am able to judge from what I have already seen, I doubt not but that, with the blessing of God, I shall have a comfortable year. My situation in Mr. Taylor's family is exceedingly agreeable; & I have every outward convenience that I can desire. The long evening walks are indeed productive of considerable fatigue; but they becomes more easy by custom; & hitherto my strength seems to increase in proportion to the increase of my work. What will be the state of my health in the winter, I cannot tell. At present, I bless God, I am quite well; and if it please Divine Providence to continue to me this mercy, I shall not mind a little fatigue. It is my lot, & I believe always will be, to preach the Gospel "in much weariness"; weariness in the service, not of it.

We have no particular news, either in the political or the religious world; excepting indeed that we have just received accounts from Gibraltar, that some of our pious Soldiers in that Garrison are suffering grievous persecutions for attending Methodist Preaching, wh

Miss M. is well, thanks you for your friendly remembrance of her, & returns best respects to you & to Mrs. Wood; to whom present also my affectionate regards.

This night I am to take Coach for London. May the hand of the Lord be with me. Pray for me continually, as I shall not cease to do for you & yours.

Time divides friends: Eternity unites them. —

God for ever bless, & reward you for all your offices of friendship to me & mine: I shall never be able to repay them, but he can. Excuse the overflowings of a grateful & affectionate heart. Farewell!

J. Bunting.

P.S. I shall send your Vol. of Spencer, next Tuesday.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]!

Bw

Macclesfield. Aug. 24. 1803.

My very dear Friend,

I thank you for your Letter; and, agreeably to your kind engagement in Manchester, will trouble you to advance for me the following sums; viz.

1. To Mr. Greaves for the Chest &c. —	£ 2.. 19.. 0.
2. To Mrs. Barlow, for ½ year's Interest, due Aug. 19 —	1.. 15.. 0.
	£ 4 .. 14.. 0.

Be so good as to thank Mr. Greaves in my name for his attention respecting the Chest, which will answer my purposes well.

I did not know, when in Manchester, that Mrs. Barlow's Interest was so nearly due, or I would have left it then. — At present I think it best to request you to advance both the above sums together; & I will take an early opportunity of sending you a remittance from London.

For your kindness to me on this & many former occasions, accept my best thanks. Be assured, though I have no adequate means in my power of expressing my gratitude, I do not feel it less strongly on that account, but the reverse.

Be pleased to give my love to W. Albiston, & tell him that his Book has somehow found its way into my Chest, & is packed up for London. I will however take the first proper opportunity to return it safely.

Your's most affect.ly J. Bunting.

P.S. Love to Mr Westhead, if he be at home.

Mr Wood,
Manchester.

union with Miss B. — the prospect affords me sincere pleasure; because I hope & believe it will contribute to your happiness: But the pleasure is mingled with something like regret, because I suppose that, when that event takes place, you, like all my old friends, now married, will more or less cast me off. However I grant you that this is a selfish feeling: & I will not indulge it. If I can do no better, I must imitate your example, as soon as Providence shall open the way. When that will be is a point that remains involved in as much uncertainty as ever. I am quite undecided about those affairs; & cannot at present see my way clear to take any steps in them.

We have no news here, that is likely to interest or entertain you. I hope the good Work is prospering in our Circuit; but we wish to see a more general and genuine revival of pure & undefiled religion. Messrs. Entwisle & Morley continue

to be very acceptable; and well deserve to be so. They are excellent Preachers & very sensible, agreeable men. — As to myself; I am getting onwards, as well as I can. My mind has been much tempted & exercised of late; & I have to lament too great a tendency to spiritual sloth & indolence. I wonder that God bears with me. But he is loving to every man; & his tender mercies are over all his works. Pray for me, I beseech you, that I may hang upon his arm, & not suffered to grow weary or faint in my mind.

Send me all the news you can about yourself & all our common friends. Do not fail to write immediately, if it be only five lines, to say whether I may expect you on the 8th of Jany.

Perhaps I may see you in Manchester either just before or just after that time.

Remember me affectly to W. Ackeley when you see him. Pray deliver the inclosed Letter to my good Mother. I am

were not yet come for my taking any steps in that way. I shall
I think at all events wait a few months longer before I decide
to move or not to move. May Heaven direct me. — I have been
somewhat indisposed for several weeks; but am now
recovered. I know not exactly when I shall be in Manchester;
perhaps in 10 days hence. Write to me next week, I beseech
you, if you do not come tomorrow. But do come if you can.

To Mr James Wood
at Messrs Wood & Westhead
Cannon Street
Manchester

Give my love to Albiston, & to all that enquire after me, but parti-
-cularly to my Mother & Sisters, if you see any of them, & say that I am
well. — We are likely to prosper here. I trust the Lord is about
to revive us in our bondage. — Farewell! May the only wise God
our Saviour keep us from wandering & from falling, &
present us faultless at last before the presence of his glory with
exceeding joy. I am Your cordially affect.te Jabez Bunting.

Bw Macclesf.d Dec. 27. 1802.

My dear Friend:

You will see by this Letter that I remember my promise to write to you & that I am more punctual in keeping my engagements of that kind than you have lately been. But I will not reproach you with what is past, if I have the pleasure to find you more attentive to epistolary obligations in future.

I have much cause for gratitude in the amended state of my health. I think I am now completely restored to my usual degree of vigour. The little tour I made six weeks ago was, by the blessing of God, of great use to me.

When will you come & see me? It must be soon; or, I fear, it will not be at all. My next turn in town will be on the 9th of January. Cannot you be here on Saturday Even.g the 8th? Pray contrive it so, if it be possible. I hope when you do come, you will stay the Monday over. I shall fully expect an answer to this part of my Letter in the course of a day or two. Write on Wednesd.y or Thursd.y Even.g at farthest. Direct to me at the Chapel.

I anticipate with a mixture of pleasure and regret the period of your approaching

Indeed you must be "determined to blunder on", as your letter expresses it. When you and I finally lose the spirit of Preaching, there will be room to fear ~~that~~ we have lost also the Spirit of Piety & Zeal; a loss of all others the most to be dreaded. My dear friend, suffer even from me the word of exhortation. Let not the world, let not the cares of business, let not even the amiable & accomplished Miss B. steal away your heart. Walk humbly & closely with God; & let it be your endeavour, as it shall, by the grace of our Lord Jesus, be mine, to retain, or if we have in any measure lost, to regain our first love, simplicity, lowliness, deadness to the world, & zeal for God. As we originally received Christ, so ought we to walk in him. Excuse the freedom of these remarks. If I loved you not most affectionately, I should not have taken such liberties. But I wish to set you an example, which I hope you will follow, of christian fidelity, & of "provoking each other to love & good works. I want a friend, who, with all possible plainness, will point out my faults, reprove my errors, & correct my mistakes whether as a preacher, or as a christian. Be you that friend; & deal as faithfully with me, as you would have me to deal with you. The more I see of Methodists, the more I am convinced ~~that~~ their great danger at present arises from the temptations they are

under to drink into the spirit of the world, which whatever plausible forms or modifications it may assume, is an irreconcileable enemy to the spirit of devotion. I think we are never safe but when we guard even against the appearance of this evil; & "for conscience sake, refuse to be conformed to this world," not merely in things sinful, but even sometimes in things indifferent. When we are a singular, a peculiar people, the hedge of scorn & ridicule which encompasses us is happily instrumental of keeping us at a distance even from the danger of trespassing ~~upon~~ into forbidden paths.

I heard Mr. Heywood twice in Congleton, [illegible] return to Worcester. He is very much improved; [illegible] sustain a respectable rank as a Preacher in our Con[illegible]

Next Sunday, Mr. Joseph Taylor is to fill up my place here, being on a begging expedition for a Chapel. But this need not hinder your coming to morrow night, as I am still at Mr. Allen's, & they will be glad to see you & to afford you the half of my bed. Mr. Taylor will also preach at Lima, 4 miles hence, at ½ past 12. — But if you had rather come another day, then I shall hope to see you without fail on Sunday the 7th of November, which will be my next turn in town. When you come, I think I can contrive for you to drink tea with the person of whom you have heard me talk so much; & I shall then have the advantage of your better opinion. Every thing stands as it did. I feel as if the time

To

Mr. James Wood,

Falkner Street

Manchester

Fav.d by
Miss Maclardie

MW

Macclesf.d Oct. 14. 1802.

My dear Wood;

After many a week of alter=
=nate expectation and despair, I was at
length agreeably surprized by your Letter of
the 4th. inst. I was on the very point of giving
you up, as one incurably guilty of the sin
against Friendship. But I will now again
indulge hopes of your reformation.

Mr. Reece spent a night with us on his
way to Manchester. He preached for me from
"Unto you &c shall the Sun of Righteousness arise
&c". The Sermon was not one of his best; yet
only a good Preacher could have delivered it.
I think with you that he is much improved
by the spark of Bramwellian fire & vehemence
which he has caught. And I like it the better in
him, because he has too much good sense
to become a servile imitator of Bramwell's
peculiarities, or to stoop to that rant & foolery
by which many have disgraced & injured a
good cause.

I am glad to hear what you say of Mr. Lomas.
I think him a man of sterling worth; & hope
the time will come when even in Manchester
sense will be <u>generally</u> preferred to <u>sound</u>.

have been; & in circumstances, under which so many mightier have fallen, even you may find it necessary to watch & pray, that you enter not into Temptation. The cares of life are apt to divert the attention from the care of the Soul; and outward comforts, such as those which Providence has granted to you, too frequently allure the possessors of them from God. I trust this will not be the case with you. I pray that it may not. And as I am never likely to be able in any other way to testify my grateful sense of the obligations under which your affection has placed me, I will endeavour to do it by acting towards you the part of a faithful friend, if I should ever have the pain to see you, whilst busied about many things, growing weary & faint in your mind, concerning the one thing needful. And I entreat you to perform the same brotherly office towards me, & to watch over me in love.

It is very doubtful, whether I shall be able to see Manchester before Conference. Then, however, I and Mr. Morley hope to take up our abode with you. We at present purpose to leave Macclesfield on Saturday Morning, the 23.d of July. As Mr. Entwisle is elected by this District as their Representative in the Stationing Committee, he will leave us on the preceding Tuesday; & by him we can send you more

precise information when you may expect us.

I find there is likely to be great opposition made by several of the Preachers to all proposals for third-years' Appointments. It is therefore scarcely probable that such a youngster as I shall be permitted to stay either at Macclesfield or Congleton, or at both conjointly. I am completely passive; but the leading friends seem very anxious for my stay; & I feel myself under great obligations to them for their strong demonstrations of respect & affection. I have also been applied to from Burslem &c. [illegible] The will of the Lord be done.

[illegible] And now let me prevail upon you [illegible] to write, if it be but a short Letter, in a week or two at farthest. Does Mr. A. still talk of retaining his present Bishopric? Is any thing said or done with you about Stations?

With sincere respects to Mrs. W., in wh., as well as in best remembrances to yourself, Mr. Morley unites. I am ever

Your affectionate Friend,

J. Bunting.

P.S. Love to W. A. — Tell me in your next how J. Heywood goes on, & if he is to be married soon? — Pray write in a few days, that I may assuredly know you are as friendly as ever.

on reviewing my Letter, that I have scribbled with all the frank & careless garrulity of a friend. But what I have written, I have written. And though there is nothing worth postage, yet as I have the opportunity of sending it by a private conveyance, it shall go just as it is.

To
Mr. James Wood;
at Mr. Ling's;
near the Methodist Chapel,
Dale Street,
Manchester.

BURTON

Pray for me. I need much help from God. I never in my life felt so much as now the absolute dependance on his favour, & the nothingness of every created good in the absence of the Creator. I trust I am making some progress in Christ's school; & I do wish to submit to all his discipline, & to learn all his lessons, whether pleasing or painful. My joys are now seldom rapturous; but they increase in solidity & steadiness. At all events, this God shall be my God! — Hoping soon to see you I am Yours J. Bunting

PW

Macclesf^d. June 18. 1862.

My dear Friend,

I promised to write to you; and though I know not that I have any thing particular to communicate, I must try to fulfil my engage=ment; especially as this Letter, if it be worth nothing, will cost you nothing. It will be conveyed by Miss Maclardie; who, with her Father, intending to pass through Manchester on Monday, has offered to be the Bearer of any thing I might wish to transmit. I understand she has some acquaintance with Mrs John Buxton, with whom I will desire her to leave this for you.

I ought to say, that I felt great pleasure, on my last visit to Manchester, in being, for the first time since your Marriage, a guest of your's under your own roof. You and Mrs W. will accept my best thanks for your hospitable attentions. If ever I attain to the honours of Wedlock, (and I think God has given me a soul too social to be always content with the situation of a Batchelor,) I hope you will grant me the pleasure of being hospitable in return, by occasionally condescending to occupy the best lodging, & to partake of the best fare, that a Methodist Preacher's House can furnish. I really think you will never grow too proud to acknow=ledge the friend of your youth. But such things

you, do not decline to preach for me on Sunday Morning. Some of our people already expect it from you. — I have particular reasons for requesting also, that you will without fail put a few lines into the Post-Office on Thursday or Friday Evening, informing me how you travel & about what time on Saturday I may expect to see you.

Tell Albiston I am much obliged to him for his Note of March 10th — I shall be glad if he will bring with him any pamphlets that are at liberty. — I believe my Mother will send a few lines by you, which also I will trouble you to convey to me.

I am just informed that old James Selby is come to the possession of a large fortune. Is it so? — If it be, there will be danger of its oversetting him. Few persons, originally poor, can ~~bear~~ sudden & unexpected opulence; especially if, though their piety may be sincere and fervent, their intellects be weak.

I have lately employed most of my leisure moments in reviewing the principal points of the Controversy between us & the Calvinists. I am more fully convinced than ever of the impor-tance of that controversy, not only as a matter of speculative theology, but as connected with

experimental & practical Godliness. I no longer wonder at the anxiety which holy Mr. Fletcher, I have heard, used frequently to express, lest after his Death his Pulpit should be filled by a Calvinist Successor. Mrs. Fletcher told me, I remember, that this was the reason, why in the Choice of a Curate, which was left to her on Mr. Horne's Resignation, she preferred a man of very moderate abilities, but pious & an Armi=nian, to several Calvinists of more brilliant ministerial talents. — I honour the pure & undefiled Religion, wherever I see it, & I acknowledge that much of it is to be seen in many, whose opinions are so highly calvinian, as to be scarcely di[illegible]-guishable from rank Antinomianism. [illegible] such men are deeply holy, it is *in spite* of [illegible] Calvinism, not *because of it*. You and I ought to glory in being the Preachers of a Universal Redemption. Our system lays us under no restraints on this point. It neither shackles our affections, nor fetters our tongues. We are under no fears of making our invitations & offers of eternal life more general than our Saviour's *general* love, or more extensive than the extensive Commission which our Master gave us, when he said, Preach the Gospel to *every Creature*. In this respect at least, Preachers of the opposite Doctrine are decidedly our inferiors; & cannot, without flagrant inconsistency, be otherwise.

But whither am I running? I perceive

I make no apology for the scrawl or incor=
=rectness of this friendly chit-chat. Such as
it is, accept it, from

Your ever affect^te

J. Bunting.

Mr. James Wood,
at Mrs. Ling's,
the Methodist Chapel,
Dale Street,
Manchester.

MACCLESFIELD
167

Castle-Neze, near Chapel en le frith
March 16th 1802.

My dear Friend:

How is it that you will not write to me? Seven weeks have now nearly elapsed, since my last Letter was forwarded to you; and it yet remains unacknowledged. To shew you, however, that I am resolved not to quarrel with you, I write again. My correspondence, I know, can be of no great value to you; but to me, secluded as I am, by the duties of my calling, from the intercourse of my old companions, & without a friend to whom I may unbosom my soul, an occasional Letter from Manchester, and especially from you, or our valuable friend Albiston, is an uncommon gratification. For my sake, then, keep up ~~the~~ a free & familiar interchange of thoughts with me; & as we cannot have, so often as formerly, the pleasure of personal interviews, let us supply the deficiency by epistolary communications.

I hope you will not disappoint me any more of the enjoyment I ~~promised myself~~ anticipate from your promised visit to Macclesfield. I shall confidently expect you, Albiston, and Morris on Saturday Evening. I am glad to hear that the latter intends to accompany you. Good beds, and fare such as Methodist Preachers have to offer, shall be at your command. Make your Visit as long as possible; and do not, I beseech

have received an increase of ten thousand members during the last year.

I am expecting, every hour almost, Mr Lockwood, one of the Preachers at Leek. We have agreed to exchange our Appointments for to morrow. He is to supply Wrigley, Linnah, and Kettleshulme for me; and I am to go to a place in Staffordshire, called Flash, and to Buxton.

When shall I enjoy the long-anticipated pleasure of a visit from yourself & Albiston? The 7th of February is my next Sunday in town. Make up your minds to come, & give us at least a morning Lecture. I mean what I say.

I was glad, last Sunday, on my unexpected return to Macclesfield, (to supply for Mr Brettell, who was called to Stockport,) to find Mr Critchley here. I consider him to be radically worthy & good, though in his manner too pompous & affected. — He had preached in the morning; but not much to the people's satisfaction, nor, I believe, to his own; as he told me, by way of apology, I presume, that the Text was one he never tried before. — But of all this, mum!

We are still going on well & peaceably, increasing in love to one another, & I hope also to God our Saviour. "Behold what a good & pleasant thing it is for brethren to dwell in unity!" —

I have lately had much of Mr Horne's com-pany; and as my knowledge of him becomes

more intimate, my esteem & affection for him proportionably increase. He has various eccentricities; but he is after all, in my opinion, a man of ten thousand. I wish he were a Metho=dist Preacher; & he in return wishes me, (would you believe it?) a Church-Parson. See how we differ! We have had some long & interesting conversations on this point. I will tell you particulars when we meet. I write this in confidence.

I wish I could have attended your Meeting on the 20th inst. The subject is a most important one; & more knotty than I should at first have supposed. I hope to hear more about it when I see you.

I lament with you Albiston's exclu=sion from the New Chapel. However, we know enough of his superior sense & p[iety] to be satisfied that his language will be, "[With] me it is a very small thing to be judg[ed] of man's judgment." — You really must learn to have more patience with the world. I honour & revere the warmth of your affection=ate feelings; but your zeal for a friend, must not degenerate into resentment against a foe. Pardon me for this hint; & reprove me with equal freedom, when you think I need it.

Offer my dear love to Albiston; & my affect.te regards to all our common friends, as if named. — Be so good as to send my Mother word by my Sister, that I intend coming next week.

=pany us? Give my dear love to him; &
my best respects to Mrs. Long, Mr. Greaves,
& all friends. I leave this Town tomorrow,
to take the Cheshire side of the Circuit; but
hope to return on Thursday Evening.
If you will favour me with your
Answer by Wednesday Night's Post, you
will highly oblige me. How proceed your
Breakfast Meetings? What news in the

Mr. James Wood,
Dale St.
Manchester

Church, among the Local Brethren, or from
Batchelors'-Row? — Excuse this scrawl. On
reviewing my Letter, I am ashamed that
I have written nothing better worth your atten-
=tion. God bless, & direct into all his will, you, and
Your obliged & affect.te J. Bunting.

BW Macclesfield. Saturday Jan. 30. 1802.

My dear Friend;

Your welcome Letter of the 21st Instant I duly received. Its contents do not require any particular answer; and I know not whether I should have found at present materials to fill a Sheet, had not a circumstance just occurred, which makes it necessary to put you to a little trouble. It is this. — I have just received a few lines from Mr Gaulter, saying, that he and Dr Coke intend to be in Manchester on Monday Evening next, and almost insisting that I should meet him there. He takes Manchester in his way to Chester; but promises that if I will come on Monday, he will spend the Tuesday with me, instead of proceeding on his Journey. — This happens very unfortunately for me; as I shall be in a part of the Circuit, which I cannot leave without inconvenience. However the temptation is too great to be wholly resisted. On Monday, I fear, I cannot possibly come; but I propose to be in Manchester early in the forenoon of Tuesday. Now what I have to request of you, is, that you will without fail see Mr G. on Monday Evening, inform him of my intention, & detain him in town till my arrival. I much want to see him on several not unimportant accounts, & I beg he will wait for me. I shall have to come about 20 miles, (from Flatt, near Chapel-en-frith;) and must return to Whaley on Wednesday Evening.

Mr G. informs me in his Letter, that according to advices received by Dr Coke, the Societies in America

pray for me? This is an office of brotherly affection which I never, no never, needed more than now. I can with truth affirm that "when it is well with me, I remember thee"; &, indeed, you are never forgotten by me — with respect to our Heavenly Friend, I think I am beginning too to love him more, & I do wish to serve him better. My mind has certainly been much quickened in its spiritual pursuits, since I came into this Circuit. There was, I confess with shame, much need of a revival of personal religion in me: For I feel that no diligence in study, no ministerial acceptance or success, no increase in knowledge, will compensate for the absence of "the perfect power of Godliness, the Omnipotence of Love".

I have been preaching tonight on Phil. 4:19; but have never had so dull & comfortless a time before, since I came hither. Perhaps this is to mortify my selfish dependancies, & to teach me that only "the Spirit giveth Life." However I have

learned to distinguish between the
personal comfort with which my
ministrations are performed to myself
& their usefulness to my hearers. There is
often, I believe, much of the latter, when
there is but little of the former.

I have some thoughts of coming
to Manchester on Wednesday, Decr.
23d. My Appointment that day is
for Whaley; & perhaps I can anticipate
it, by preaching there (a fourth time) on
the Evening of the preceding Sunday.
Cannot you contrive to return with me
the next day to Booth-Green, (14 Miles from
your Town) & spend Christmas-Day with
me in Macclesfield? Pray think of this,
& decide which of the following Appointmts.
you will supply for me:

Thursdy Evg. Decr. 24. Booth-Green, 7 o'clock.
Xmas Day: — Do. Do. — 5 in the Morng.
" " — Bollington, 8:
" " — Macclesfield, 6 in the Evg.

We can get back from Bollington in time
to receive the Sacramt. from Mr. Horne
in the forenoon, & in the Afternoon may
hear him preach. Cannot Albiston accom-

above, is my love & affection for you. This would indeed be an inexhaustible subject. You know that you are literally my most intimate earthly Friend: & I have the satisfaction to be assured that the esteem & attachment I feel towards you are reciprocal. Give me, I beseech you, a fresh proof of it, by writing an imme=:diate answer. If you will give my sister a Letter for me on Tuesday Night or Wednes=:day Morning, she can put it into a Parcel, which my Mother, I believe, will

Mr. James Wood,
at Mrs. Lings,
Dale Street,
near the Methodist Chapel,
Manchester

MACCLESFIELD
167

P.S. — Present me one of your new Local Preachers' Plans. I like to know how you, my good Bro. Allison, & others, are employed.

transmit to me on that day. Love to all friends. Send me all the news you can think of. Good Mr. Carlill, an old, worn-out Preacher, is gone to Heaven since Conference. How proceeds the affair in L. St.? God direct & bless both you, & your ever affect.te A Bunting

Macclesfield. Decr. 11. 1801.
Friday Eve: 12 o'clock.

My dear Wood,

I think not a day has passed for some time back, on which I have not thought of you, & intended to discharge the epistolary debt I owe you. I have been till now prevented, partly by multiplicity of engagements, & partly by not knowing any thing of importance to communicate. Macclesfield is completely barren of news, whether civil or ecclesiastical: But when all other topics fail, there are two which remain inexhaustible. The one is my sincere and unalterable esteem & friendship for you; and the other the far more valuable & desirable love of our common, our heavenly Friend, who sticketh closer than a Brother.

With respect to the former, I need not, I trust, assure you that I account your acquaintance & intimacy to be one of those mercies, which the God of Mercy has poured upon me in such rich abundance, & for which I shall for ever bless him. I ~~think~~ & am sure, that hitherto our friendship has been mutually profitable to us in the best things: but let us labour that it may become more & more so. Do you regularly & fervently

unfriendly to the diligent prosecution of any regular system of Study. However as the Congregations appear to be good, the Societies pious, the Accommodations, in most places, moderately comforta=ble, the people civil & kind, & my Colleagues very affectionate & brotherly, I am, on the whole, pleased with my Station; especially as it was not of my own seeking, and as I have all along been fully persuaded, that God himself has in this instance fixed for me the bounds of my habitation. My labour of body will be much harder here than at Oldham; but that of the mind probably much easier; as we preach but seldom, comparatively, to the same Congregations. As to our prospects of use=fulness, I do not think them very flattering except at Congleton. In Macclesfield, there is too much disunion of affection, to allow us to hope for any great success. If we can keep up our present numbers, I conceive we shall accomplish great things. The Lower Eyëes Party have again

joined themselves to Betsworth, who
now avows himself to be a Preacher a=
=mong the Kilhamites. They have of
course withdrawn themselves from
us, & are no longer to be considered as Me=
=thodists. However three of their best
Leaders, Brickenall, Pickering, & Bennett
(the two former, Local Preachers) together
with most or all of the [illegible] Classes, which they met, intend
to re-unite themselves to our Society.
The rest have joined to their own body
the ~~scattered~~ remains of Kilham's
former Society here, & so consolidated
the two opposition-parties into one.
Such is the end, at present, of the unfor=
=tunate & ill-managed business
the Lower Eyres; unfortunate, because
it has done almost irreparable injury
to the Cause of Methodism in this Town; &
ill-managed, because, I believe, there
have been very great faults on both sides.
However, as matters now stand, the
actual termination of the affair is the
best that could be expected or wished.

The second topic, to which I alluded

Mr. Wood,

Messrs. Wood & Westheads,

High Street,

Manchester

To be delivered
to Mr. Wood im-
-mediately.

Macclesfd. Sept. 26. 1801.

My dear Friend,

I promised, at your request, to write to you; and now sit down to com=ply with my engagement; hoping that this Letter, if it serve no other purpose, will at least procure for me the pleasure of a speedy Answer, and be acceptable to you as a token of friendship. I have not indeed any thing particular to communicate; but there are two inexhaustible topics, con=cerning which I can easily scribble over my Sheet.

The first is myself; a subject this, (one's self) which one never wants inclination or materials to expatiate upon, when wri=ting to a friend. Be it known to you, therefore, that I am, through the mercy of God, well in body, and, I hope, in some measure prosperous in soul. I have now completed five weeks out of the six, which it will require to make the tour of this Cir=cuit; & have reason to think that I shall be tolerably happy & comfortable in my new Appointment. The Circuit indeed is rather a rambling one; & on that account

we shall have my Mother & Sister with us, besides our Servant, Nurse-Girl, & three Children; so that there will be no room lost. It may be well to tell the Coach-People how many we are; & I hope they will only make us pay for six places, & not charge anything extra for the young Children. If they [redacted] to this, pray do not strike any bargain with them; but wait till I come. Perhaps indeed they would even abate something of the full inside fare for six, as we take the whole. You may at least try them.

I am ashamed to give you all this trouble; & yet there is one thing more I must ask of you; i.e., to engage a Coach to meet us at the Star or Bush Inn in Deansgate on Wednesday when the Liverpool Coach arrives, (which they will be able to fix pretty accurately) in order to carry our live-stock & luggage up to

Oldham St

Excuse haste; & believe me, with love to Mrs W., in wch my wife unites,

Your very obliged
& affect. Friend,

J Bunting

WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL

JABEZ BUNTING - 1799 - 1858

Fifty-five letters from the man who was four times President of the British Conference - 1820, 1828, 1836, 1844

METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Liverpool. Saturday Eng.

My dear Friend,

This morning Mrs Wood's obliging Letter arrived. We are grateful for your invitation to make your house in Oldham St. our Inn while at Manchester; & purpose to accept it. We cannot quit Liverpool, however, so soon as Tuesday; but have taken the whole Coach for Wednesday. We are to leave this place on that day at half past one in the afternoon; & hope to reach Manchester between seven & eight. May I trouble you to send a Message to my Mother, informing her of the above particulars; and adding that we intend to go on to Halifax on Friday at 12 o'clock. There is a Coach, I find, which leaves Manchester at that hour every day; & I must request that you will immediately secure the whole of the Inside, (six places) as far as Halifax for Friday, the 30th inst.

End of

Creighton papers.

I hope God will raise up ~~more~~ men from time to time as
instruments; tho' we all know He is not beholden to man to effect
his own work. He has generally used second causes; but sometimes he
seems to go out of his usual way, that his hand may be more clearly
discovered both by believers and Infidels. They had a law suit
last year, about a Chapel in Derry: it was decided in favour
of the Conf. preachers according to the Deed which Mr Wesley en-
rolled in Chancery; but the Church party are now building Chapels
of their own. — Opposition is sometimes useful, even in reli-
gion; as it calls forth exertion on both sides; and by discus-
sion of matters the Truth is brought forth or it is established.
Mr Pearson the traveller whom I mentioned in my last,
makes some judicious remarks about the different de-
nominations of religious folks in America. They are
in a kind of easy way, each intent to go to their own place
of worship; and as there is nothing to excite zeal, or awaken
enquiry; they have not sufficient discernment to shew
them its advantages. I am inclined to this man's opini-
on: or ~~rather~~ indeed it has been nearly my own thought
for many years. He observes, that without personal ex-
ertion, men are apt to sink into indolence; and that to
become excellent, there must be privations or sufferings
of some kind: and that ~~to be~~ in present state of things
we must first know sorrow, and be acquainted with
grief. — I believe I gave you a short extract about these
things in my last: but it will be useful to think of them
again and again. — I suppose my Poem on Mount Car-
mel pleased D. M. S— as he wishes to recommend the
place. I only spoke according to my conjectures: and
and to excite those who may be born to improve their facul-
ties, and all the opportunities they shall have in their day;
for every generation ought to go farther than the former,
because they have the advantage of being assisted by all
the knowledge which had been diffused before them.
You see this is the purport of a Latin motto affixed to
my pamphlet entitled An Enquiry into origin of
Arts, Sciences, &c: and the English of it is given in the
preface to it. Indeed I felt much when I was writing that
part where I address those who are yet unborn. There must
and will be an encrease of knowledge to all Eternity: we are
only in the infancy of our being; but let every generation
exert themselves to get all they can, and do all the good they
can in their day: for they are accountable for every
talent committed to their trust. I have written a long letter
to my Grandson Odiorne. I am every day scribbling something to one or ano-
ther, as with my latest breath; tho' all my ~~every~~ facultys are failed
and my memory gone, that I can say little now to any purpose. —

Our time is short: let us act as well as we can in our day, whether our children will follow us or not. We know what human nature is, that we were the same as others: and we must leave them to Him who can change them, perhaps when we are gone.—

I get but little sleep. I have various complaints: but yet I am spared almost by miracle: and I believe the people wonder a little. I have not been at our great Chapel in the City road since the beginning of Decr but am thinking to venture there on Sunday next. I assist at the Sact there, as there are generally 300 communicants, which takes a long time for one man. The Preachers administer it every where else thro' the connexion, except in Ireland. They do it there in some places in Ulster, which was partly the cause of the dispute. There has been many things printed there for a few years, each party throwing out something against one another. Mr Averal has joined the Church party; and the ~~Church~~ Conference party are abusing him in print. They also speak bitterly against G. S. and call him a monster. I believe I related the Dream he had about R--- in March about seven years ago. It has all come to pass. I have advised them to be watchful over themselves than ever, and not be lifted up: for if they make the least trip, the other party will be sure to blaze it abroad: and even the inocent are often slandered. This has been the case in every age.— Oh! may the Shepherd of Israel watch over us and ours, till we are landed where no blast can reach us. How that family at ---- get thro I know not. But the Lord will always provide for the fatherless and widows if they can truly trust in him. Surely we all have cause to speak well of him; and recommend others to do the same.— His power and His wisdom is the same; and the cattle upon a thousand hills are his.—

Praise the Lord, O my soul! With Love and Affection,

I am as ever Yours——— J. C.

is a great deal of reason and knowledge, and common sense: in this respect the Americans are still about two centuries behind. — Much is to be done in all parts of the world yet. And tho' I know the Omnipotent Power can effect a great work in a little time: yet I have long thought that he will work as he has done; and that many ages may elapse before the final change of this scene of things shall be concluded. Let each individual fill up his place and act in his day; and he shall stand in his lott at the end of the days. I am writing a Letter containing a few hints of these things to my Grand son at Boston; to urge him to use his efforts to acquire some knowledge in his day, and then diffuse it among others. I learn that the members of the lower house of representatives are mostly young Lawyers, very ignorent and somewhat like our petty Attornies. Lawyers and Doctors are numerous there Every tenth house in N. York had either a Doctor or Lawyer on the door when Pearson was there. And there is something of Slavery there in a secret way. He says the people of America are not cleanly: and mentions many of their customs, and phrases that are laughable. I suppose his book will check many from going out from this country. Yet all countries have some faults or other. I am sure there is much evil here; tho' there is much useful knowledge, and many that are truly sincere and pious. —

I have worked on strangely for four months past. I scarcely leave my room at all: have many complaints: get little sleep, or rest: tho' I think upon the whole I was rather worse before Christ- than at present. The Stewards and other friends are still kind to me. This is also mercy. Indeed I am looking back at all the mercies and providential care of my Great Friend that I am lost in wonder and astonishment: and condemning myself that I do not praise & love him more. I still repeat in ~~silence~~ secret to myself. — "Oh! to grace how great a debtor!" — and "tis mercy all, immense and free!" — In our Mag: for January a paper of mine is inserted containing some of my observations on some plain texts of Scripture which I think are often misunderstood, and misapplied, similar to what I added at the end of the tract on the wisdom of Solomon. Also in the Mag: for Novr last I published some thoughts about the public singing in our Chapels, and the New Tunes, which I cannot bear; and refer them to what Mr Wesley wrote in the 4th Vol: of his Mag: for the year 1781. — In a public Newspaper I published different things one last summer in which I condemned employing females going about publickly to collect money for the Bible Society, or any other Charity Another about a month ago, I condemned the king's printer for not giving us a correct Edition of the Bible; because many words are spelt wrong, thro' carelessness. — As to [illegible] I know not what to say: only I hope this affair will some way work together for good: if it drive him to take refuge in God, where he should have long since gone. Better late than never. Let him ask himself what comfort

o that books which he read and liked afford him now? Let him at last turn to the simple plan of the Gospel, to be saved as a mere sinner, thro' the merits of that blood which is free for all. Let him not despond; but try to set about the business in earnest and immediately. As to the Division among Methᵈˢ in Ireland, They say it is growing wider and wider: but both parties are boasting that they are increasing. One good may arise from it, that each party must exert themselves more; and if souls are awakened or converted by either, it will be a mercy. Opposition in that respect sometimes does good. And I believe God will from time to time raise up men to reprove those who are settled on their lees, or have left the old paths. This he did of old. and I think it will be necessary in every age. Our preachers in this country are increasing their power much, and collecting money upon all occasions to promote the work, as they call it: they know this gives great influence. But I see thro' this what it is tending to: for however sincere some may be at the present time, those who succeed and step at once into power, are very apt to abuse it and grow insolent; and then they hasten their own ruin and hurt the cause of true religion. When any power says in its heart – "I sit as a Queen!" – or are self sufficient and independent of GOD. it is very near a dreadful fall. This is and always was the case. Pride will bring nations, people, and individuals low. It is right it should be so. God is jealous of his prerogative: let all tremble before him, and acknowledge his universal sway. – Let us strive to pray for one another whilst we are sojourners below. I trust we shall meet above to part no more. With love to all, &c ——

J. C.

Extract of a Letter dated Mar: 1st 1819

With respect to Religion, R— says he would rather take his chance in Ireland than in America. He abhors that noisy work, and loud praying &c. The young man who was at Chillᵉ gave an account of what he had seen there; the folks leaping, jerking, &c. I am of the same judgment. Surely God does not require loud speaking to make him hear: it is best when the judgment is rightly informed, and the plan of Salvation well understood. But the great Enemy is always sowing tares among the wheat. A hasty work seldom seldom lasts long: tho' God may overrule in a way we know not, and order may arise out of confusion in the end. R— says there is a great revival at Inniskillen such as never was in Ireland. This is among the division on his side (which for distinction sake we may call Church Methodists) He thinks good will come out of the division in the end. J. S— was an Instrument in bringing about the division, first at Clones and afterwards at Dublin &c &c. They have called out a number of Country Local preachers; yet they are but little qualified to preach. It is true that piety and sincerity are the first and principle qualifications; yet as there is a good deal of light of various kinds gone forth in Europe, it is now necessary to read much and to have tolerable abilities in order to preach in publick.

My Dear Sister Hackney Feb 24. 18[illegible]

I rec^d yours of the 30th of Decr in due time. I had written to you about that time; which I hope you have got by this time. You do well to let us know all you can learn, even tho' it is unpleasant, as we wish to know the real State of matters. that we may make the proper reflections. As for myself, I have seen much of the evils of life in others: and have had a pretty large share of its bitters myself: and therefore I don't wonder at any thing that comes to pass. — All is known to the great and wise Governor: and tho' He permits evil, and gave man originally a power to act as a free Agent: yet He can bring order out of confusion: and perhaps what we deplore much at the present moment may in some mysterious way work together for good in the end. A hope helps in some measure to bear us up; especially when we feel our own helplessness. Yet it is our business to do our part, as far as we can whilst at the same time we look to our invisible Guide. — You and I and R— have three sons; beings that are hard to be described: and tho' they all differ in some respects; yet they give evident proofs that they are descended from fallen Adam. What then can we do, but cry to Him who made them, to create them anew; and engraft them into the true and living Vine. Untill that event take place no good fruit can be expected. I have reminded R— that our Chil^n are the same by nature as others: for he seemed many years ago to reason as if his were better than others: but of late he is giving up that point. Education may improve and make some difference outwardly: and so far it is pleasing. R— has his heart too much wrapt up in his son: and thinks if you knew him better, you would pity him and feel for him. I have told him that you do feel for him, and so do I too: but our feeling will do but little. I have told him to beware of idolatry, for God is jealous. Whatever person or thing we love more than we ought will be taken from us, or we from it, or if spared it will prove a bitter cross. He talks much of J—'s honesty, simplicity and inexperience and hopes he will be eternally saved. All these are well so far: but whilst we are in this world, there is a degree of common sense necessary and a degree of prudence to conduct us thro' temporal affairs. Wicked and designing men are all around us, ready to take advantage: therefore we need something of the wisdom of the serpent, as well as the inocence of the dove. The family have agreed to call J home, I think it is best: for I don't see what he could do in America. [illegible] What will become of my son I cannot foresee. He has not written a line to any one of us except one last March to his sister H—d. It is a wrong principle to expect all at once to leap into a high station; and not begin low and use frugality and management, as many have done, and by so doing have got on. He would not listen to the advice of his real friends when here and now he and J think their father's exposed their faults. It was always my way to speak what I think even to others, more especially to my own. Perhaps we have erred something on that side: but I never could act as many here do (especially preachers) praising themselves and their families even in the pulpit. If you can write to him, and do it in the best manner as God shall direct you, to

advise him &c &c.— It is too general a practice here to make an appearance, in order they think, to attract business or customers. I always disapproved of persons going in debt at first, and buying furniture and dress above their abilities, and this is one great cause of innumerable bankruptcies. I think your Country will soon be as bad in this as many others. And I have just lately read a book of a man who travelled thro' most the States lately: he went out to explore it, to get a place to settle for himself and several families who commissioned him. He examined every thing and wrote to his friends from time to time giving an impartial account of every thing ~~and~~ respecting the people the towns the prices of things, of labour, &c &c He contradicts some of Mr Birkbecks statements, who wrote too favourably for some private purpose of his own; to encourage people to go out to the Illinois country where he has purchased some lands. This late traveller, whose name is Pearson is very intelligent, and I think impartial. He was at Philladelphia at the time of an Election for a governor of that state. There are parties there as well ~~as well~~ as in other countries: and I think in time they will divide; and perhaps have civil wars. Most of the inhabitants are made up of the worst characters that went from Europe, some of whom were transported there, and others went to escape justice, or to avoid their creditors.— Mr Pearson went the road to Pittsburgh, thro' and over the Allegany mountains. it is most tremendous, properly no roads: their carriages breaking down &c, what they call stages there are not better than a sort of carts used here to carry pigs to market. He walked a great deal, and was far before the stage He went on to the Missisippi, and New-Orleans. He describes a meeting of Meth— at Philladelphia; which was shameful and shocking; and enough to disgust any rational being. It was a prayer-meeting after the sermon had concluded and the preacher retired. There was such noise, confusion, leaping, women in some corners screaming, boys standing up, using expressions bordering on blasphemy: too horrid to relate. This man does not seem to be prejudiced against Meth— for he says here in England they conduct their public service with decency." I am afraid there is some of this wild work at Chil— too: the Enemy is always sowing tares among the wheat. Write to + + + to that purpose: to use gentle means, for they are too violent to be reasoned with at present: and to bring gradually to a sober mind. Tho' God may overrule and bring some good out of it, yet a hasty work seldom stands long. When the mind is enlightened and the judgment gradually informed, I suppose they generally stand best: tho' there may be exceptions on either hand. Perseverance and watchfulness will always be necessary to the end of the world.— It seems ten or twelve of the States still retain slavery; which must be a curse to any nation; as it is contrary to the mind of God. They talk of liberty, freedom, and independance yet are inconsistant with themselves. They are not liberal minded, and are ignorant and yet conceited, and boasting. Ignorance and conceit generally go together. Tho' there is much evil in Europe; yet there

Though we may exercise faith and hope: yet we cannot but feel for those whom we are about to leave inexperienced in this world. But I am looking back at God's kind dealings with me from my youth, I am constrained to ~~look~~ cry out — "'Tis mercy all, immence and free." — and I strive to look to Him and trust him with my offspring also. He may bring about things in a way that we see not, when our bodies are mouldering in dust. I can enter into your feelings respecting — — — and I am striving to hope this affair will in the end turn out for his spiritual good. Perhaps he will begin to reflect, and look at his foolish conduct, and what he has seen in the world. He was wrong in leaving the women to herself: for the most virtuous would be in danger in such a situation. It was foolish to come over the first time; but tenfold more so the second time without any business but to see the world as he said. And what has he seen in it, or gained by it? He may reflect indeed upon what he has seen and heard: and then look at his own conduct. The Deistical books he read did him much harm; and to this was added the carnal mind: and he looked also at the defects in many who profess religion. I hope he will yet listen to what you have said and do say. Let him if possible have some temporal employment, even tho' he should make no great profit. This I advised him when he was here, and he seemed to assent, both on account of his body and mind. — He spent much money foolishly by coming to visit Europe: perhaps he may stand in need of it yet: but if distress drives him to God, all may end well. — Poor — — — heart is still entangled with — — — tho' he knows his weakness. But he rejoices at the prospect of his eternal welfare. He is so involved with his affairs, and the cheating and villainy of those with whom he has to deal; that I know not how he will get thro' except the Lord deliver by a mighty hand and outstretched arm, as he has often done. I hope this will be the case in the end. Many years ago he used to reason about the difference in the nature of children, as if some were better than others. I often reminded him that all are the same by nature; tho' there may be some shades of difference and some get a little refinement of manners, and do not perhaps fall into outward very gross sins. Tho' he acknowledged this; yet I thought he seemed to think his children were better than others. But of late years he seems to give up that thought. I told him a dream which I had when under conviction in Novr. 1776. which I explained to myself thus. — I thought I was before our door in Lisreagh & saw a tree growing, like a damson or plum tree. It was loaded with

fruit: but in various degrees of ripeness; and colours, some green others a little paler, and some purple as if ripe. I called all the family out to look at it. — This shewed me the tree of nature, with a variety of shades of colouring. But this tree must be changed; and a good cion grafted on it. Oh! may all our posterity become branches in this living vine; and may GOD dig about our own root, that we may bring forth more fruit to the last. — GOD taught me wonderfully and encouraged me at that time in dreams; for I had no one to assist me, or converse with. I believe you understand these things: let us be humble, for what were we or our father's house, more than others. Give my love and thanks to all the friends at + —— for all their kindness, I would make them a return if in my power. I endeavour to recommend them daily with all my other friends at the throne of mercy: where else shall we all fly for shelter? — On the 25 of Oct.r I preached here at a little Chapel near my house & told the people I did not expect to stand in a pulpit after that day. — On the 20th of Dec.r I went to a chapel on the south side of the Thames, where I have admin-d the Sacr-t once a month. I preached at that place my first sermon a few days after my arrival in London; a man told me he remember'd me preaching it. After the Sacr-t I spoke a few words to those who remained, bidding them farewell, as I am quite worn out; and exhorted them in a few words to aim at family religion, and to be filled with all the fulness of GOD. some of them were greatly affected, particularly an old Leader who has two large Classes. Hitherto none of the preachers admin-d the Sacr-t at that Chapel; tho' they do in all other places, except the City-road, and they will soon do it there &c. Tho' it is some satisfaction to have the approbation of the people, especially the Stewards in every part of the Town, yet what would all this avail now without the approbation of GOD! I must look to be saved thro' the alone merits of the atoning blood. — Remember me to all friends with you, I can only say — Farewell! — May we be purified, to mingle with the glorified throng, and meet there to part no more! —

J. C. ——

That letter I wrote to J—— I wrote as with my latest breath
you can have no Idea of my feelings at his conduct to Mr. D
my best friend ~~[illegible]~~ He is 82 years old, and lives about
miles out of town. If ever the providence of God was mani-
fested towards me, it was in raising up this friend for me in
a strange land. He is from Norway: but has been in London
from his youth. He has had great trials in his family: lost
3 or 4 daughters some years ago, and his son and son in law be-
came bankrupts too.— The division among the Meth— in Ireland is now
established, and two connexions. The Clones party have got some of the
principle people in Dublin, and in many parts of the Kingdom to
join them. They are building a new Chapel at Clones.— R—— says he
will not join any party any more; as he has seen so much Priest-
craft prevail for forty years. This is grievious; both parties have been
writing against each other. This increases infidelity in other
people. The papists in this country are increasing and gaining
strength. There is a College of Jesuists established in Lancashire,
and another in some part of Ireland. This may discourage some
weak ones at present: but I know that the residue of the Spirit
is with God: and the government of his Church is on his shoul-
ders. He lets the wicked go a great length sometimes: and when
they are boasting &c &c He rises up as it were in a moment, and
crushes them with a mighty hand.—Read with attention the acct
when he suffered the Ark to be taken by the Philistines: and
how he punished them afterwards. He lets both friends and foes
know from time to time, that all power belongs to Him; and He will
have the whole glory given to himself. I wish I had some strength to
speak of his goodness, faithfulness, and truth. (Let all be encouraged
to look to him; and resolve to obey him; and they may rest as-
sured it will be well with them in the end. My experience is not
rapturous joy: but a firm and calm relyance upon the only and
sure foundation; the merits of the attoning sacrifice offered
up for me and all mankind. This has been my anchor of hope
for more than than forty years, and I trust I shall hold it to the end)
I know that most professors are living below their priveleges:
Mr. Fletcher also thought so in his time. His wife is dead about
a year: she survived him 30 years, was a most pious woman and
did much good in her neighbourhood.— Twenty eight of our preach-
ers died this last year; two of them suddenly just at the conclu-
sion of the Conf: We have some men of great abilities here, both
as writers and speakers. There is much publishing of books in
this day: all are fond of becoming Authors to have their names
known. As to what I have said of the conduct of —— you need
not mention any thing of it at present, but after my death, you may
let him know what a grief it must have been to me with my
other afflictions. Yet after all if he should begin to reflect,

and enter upon a new plan of conduct, I would be thankful.
I am sorry to fill so much of my paper about unprofitable things.
All you can do is to supplicate the throne of grace for us and
and for those near you. What a mercy that there is a throne of
grace to come to, and to know that we must always approach
it thro' a Mediator: for every moment we need such a friend.
It is more than probable that I shall be removed, before this comes to your
hand. — I commend you all to the wise Governor and best
counsellor. May He direct all: purify and sanctify all:
and may we all meet in the havan of eternal repose! ...
Oh! for a meetness for that place! — Farewell. — J. C.

Decr. 20th 1818

My dear Sister
Two days before this I recd. your last: the =
I am very thankful for all your attention. You are the only cor-
respondent of my relations from whom I have satisfaction in
writing Letters. Poor ___ faculties are failed, so that I can
scarcely make out his meaning, and his distress on accot. of others
affairs, is beyond what you can conceive, tho' you can partly guess. —
I agree with you in all your views, and every word in your Letter.
And tho' I attempt to scribble something, it is doubtful if I will
be able to finish this paper. I can scarcely write one Line without
stopping to cough, and to draw breath. I live by a sort of miracle;
as I get scarcely any sleep for years, during the winters; but
still it is worse as the frame grows weaker and weaker. I sit up
in bed with a cloath over my head, the long night; and when I lean
my head for a few minutes on the pillow, I am forced to rise to
get up the phlegm; But I need not fill my paper with these things. I
have great cause to bless my long-suffering God, for thousands
of mercies mingled with the severest afflictions both of body
and mind. — Every step ___ has taken was wrong:
all his views founded in pride; laying schemes of specula-
tion aiming at things above his power; and not doing at the
present what he could &c &c. Let the folks at ___ know my
sentiments: and that I am very thankful for all their kind atten-
tion. ___ father was a plain gardener in A__f__. He was
industerous, and bred his family in a kind of decency in that
way, left them a little property, but not sufficient to keep them
without their own labour. The women here all dress above their
ability to make an outward show: but this will not do, and
pride brings them to ruin. ___ had at least £100 on landing.
I have gave him in one way and another with some of his debts £300
which is more than I promised, and I have informed him he can get no more
from here as we have it not. — I know one here who has a coat wearing, four years
and denyed him self to strive to clothe others; and yet he was despised even by
___ for appearing mean. this is a hard case yet it is so. The —

Ten thousand things rush upon my mind: and at the very moment when I am struggling with death: and all was bustle and hurry at their setting off; so that there was no time for serious discourse, and scarcely a few moments for prayer. I am in some respects like Job, many calamities all closely following each other. — I am striving to put in practice what I often recommended to others, when speaking from that Text, Micah, 7.7. which I have long been fond of. The great point we have to learn at all times, is to stand still, when in the furnace, and look to Him who alone can support. His hand is not shortened; and he is teaching us as well as all men, that we must entirely rely upon him. Yet how slow are all in learning this! They are still setting up for independance or forgetful of him in a prosperous hour. I have been brought I know not how, thro' many dark scenes, where I could not see an inch before me. After a long time, when looking back, I see clearly the hand that supported me tho' at that time I saw it not. This helps me a little in the present dark providence; hoping that it may perhaps work together for good in the end. I am sure if ever my son comes to reflect seriously on what he is now passing thro' it will be a blessing to him. I often repeat to myself and to others those words of the Hymn. — "Most merciful, when most severe." — I rec'd a letter about the same time I got yours. from Mr C— — He and family were well. He speaks highly of his chil.n He is giving the boy a Classical Education. The girl has natural abilities and a good memory; and is like her Mother in disposition, temper &c. This gives me some consolation in my afflicted and distressed state of mind respecting some other parts of my family. I am striving to hope against hope; and leave all to God's disposal and superintendance. for I am sure He will do right. and why should a living man complain? —

The Emigrants from Europe are so numerous, and of all sorts and denominations, that your country will be stocked with a strange medley in a future day. And as there will be so many jarring opinions it will be a hard taske to govern them. The Laws here are broke through every day. The most horrid murders committing, some sons robbing and murdering their fathers; young boys from ten to 15 years of age, in gangs even in the day robing in the streets; and houses broken into every night almost. Magistrates and Police are very vigilant. Oh! what a picture is fallen nature! Yet there is good doing, and light spreading: and great efforts making to send forth light to foreign lands. But the Christian Cause bleeds when professors wrangle and bite one another. The Infidels look at this, and are more hardened. — It is an unpleasant circumstance that people here of the same denomination are writing against each other. Some of the higher Clergy of the Establishment are writing against others who are called Gospel Clergymen: but where any thing of Gospel is preached, the churches are crowded. The Meth.s are writing against one another, and some of all parties are writing against Dr Clarke; tho' he has long been labouring for their good, and I am sure many of them have been profited by his writings. And some of the chief Papists in Ireland are quarreling even with the Pope: as they think he has not honoured them as much as he should. — Perhaps, all this is working for some end of a wise Providence.

Farewell — J. C.

has been intolerably hot, I suppose his travelling thro' woo[illegible] [illegible]wful.
roads has been tremendous work. We are left to conjecture w[illegible] things,
and can do nothing nor say anything to any purpose. I think [illegible]s and
case is the worst of all. There is no managing him either in pro[illegible] of
rity or adversity: he cannot reason, and acts at random. The [illegible]th
will be but a bad help to him. The friends are a bad set and not to be
relied on, will pay nothing to the poor father who is struggling to
pay some of the debts &c. It is not possible to conceive what that poor
man is suffering: such a complication of different evils all falling upon
him at once, so that no man can bear up except God works as it
were a miracle. You and I can judge better of his state of mind and
body better than others: yet we can only guess one thousandth or ten
thousandth part. To think of all these things is enough to overwhelm
one's mind: our only refuge is in God; we know, He can deliver
and support: and I trust he will yet deliver. But what are all the trials
of life? they are grievous indeed and hard to be endured: but they
are not for ever. Ah! here is our comfort: there is a place of
rest: and surely this rest will be more sweet to some than others.
Oh for more faith, and stronger hope! yet I trust all our fami-
ly will at length arrive in the haven of eternal repose.—
Most of them have cross'd the flood, and some are cross-
ing now. I have not heard any particulars of sister Tosh. only
that she went off well, some time last winter.— I am now 8
months advanced in my 80th year. Some people begin to wonder:
I have preached six times since March last. I am set down on
the 25th Inst for a little Chapel here, tho' I have doubts I shall
not be able. If I do, it will be my last time. God be merciful
to me an unprofitable servt! — Amen. —
J. M'L has acted prudently, I believe, in a temporal sense; &
certainly this is very proper. But people of that sort are in dan-
ger of resting below the mark or trusting in money and their
own prudence. In his last letter to me, he said he was making his
will. Every person ought to do this, I know not what his property
is. If he has any thing to spare, his own family is the first object
to attend to; next his nearest relations; then others that may be
in ~~[illegible]~~ distress. But the best way of doing a charity, is when we
are alive: not after we are dead.— Many persons are the
worse when they get a legacy left them: they soon spend it.
I told J.— when he was here, that he ought to get into business
again: all persons should do so; even if they were to bestow all
they gain: for the mind wants to be employed in something:
& he ought to do so too, no matter what it is: suppose to su-
perintend for some other, without much labour of body:
and to have the nights or long evenings to himself for read-
ing and divine exercises.—

tho' in a weak state myself, I strive to encourage him to bear up a little longer, and he will enter the haven of rest at last. Perhaps these things will some way work for spiritual good to his family: I send you some loose papers and some other little things to be given to to my grand Chil.dn &c— Their Mother had collected several little scraps from time to time. Her departure was a great loss to the Chil but I trust God will preserve them and bring them at last to meet with her at his throne above. I suppose the young folks can get all sorts of books at Boston, if they have a taste for reading. Many bad books are in circulation both here and in all countries; and the young mind is apt to be captivated with pleasing language or an elegant style, which often conceals a dangerous poison. I would not confine young folks entirely to religious books: there are many things useful and necessary in life which tend to enlarge the mind.—

I hope the folks at C——e are getting on a little better; and you will continue to correspond with them as long as you are able and give them advice, and the result of your observations through life. Give my affecti regards to them all when you write. I have not strength of body or mind to say any thing new. The world is the same as it has been in the ages past; for tho' various changes and circumstances occur daily; yet human nature is always the same: and I have often said in public and in private, that the history of the Jews, as we have it in the Bible, is only the history of human nature in various shapes, in every age and nation. God brought the people out by a mighty hand and provided for them in the desert, and seated them at length in a fertile land: but when Jeshurun waxed fat he kicked. So it is now and so it will be, except the grace of God or a new bias be imparted to the Soul, prevent it. Inculcate this among all as well as you can while you live.—

The Meth.s in Ireland have been violently convulsed for a few years past. and I hear have at length divided into two parties &c— But I have great fears concerning both parties: that true heart-felt religion will not be promoted, & Infidels are more and more hardened from observing these divisions among Christians. Your S—— has long been reasoning on this ground, which has done him no good: tho' I believe he begins to see that there is some reality in religion; or that some are possessed of it: and I trust he will at length seek for it himself. All we can do for our children is to pray on, and resign them up to Him who gave them. I fear Mrs A— will not be able to govern hers, as they are like to be headstrong, and she is of a very amiable temper, she works very hard, and very attentive to me. But what she will do when I am gone, I cannot tell. My son also is in a trying way &c— Every day proves the vanity of all things beneath the Sun: but it is hard to convince young folks of this: till they know it by experience.

I send you a little tract, on the rise and progress of popery: a rough copy of hints, which some one might enlarge on at some future day. There is more of the spirit of popery among some Protestant Sects, than people are aware of. There is another piece, entitled, "Symptoms of a falling Church".— Oh! much is to be done yet in the world, even that part of it which professes to

be reformed. Indeed, efforts are making to diffuse light thro' the heathen world, and I rejoice at it: yet in my views it may take some ages yet, before the kingdoms or nations become the kingdoms of Christ, or all bend to his universal sway.

I have just now rec'd yours of the 29th of June. I have not room to make remarks. — The prospect and plan of that new city is very well for the present. But it will perhaps be unhealthy for some time. If B--- goes there her days will be short. She has been long toss'd on a sea of troubles. Perhaps she may get to the port at last. Let those who form that new City remember that they carry human nature with them: and however well they plan, divisions and contentions will arise in another generation. — Riches and pride produce many evils in all ages. — Give my love to all friends out there when you write to them.

Farewell yours J. C—

Decr 30th 1817

My Dear Sister I recd yours of the 29th of Octr in due time, I am glad T-- has got home safe: and I hope he will now begin to think and reflect in right earnest; and set about some business. I told him and he seemed to confess that this is necessary for the mind; even tho' there was no necessity for it in a temporal sense. And if people have any thing to spare, they will always find enough that are in want: and it is more blessed to give than to receive — But let him remember that changes may yet happen, so as to deprive him of all his property. Riches beget themselves wings and fly away. He is the same as others by nature; and must undergo an inward change. We all see the necessity of this day by day. And we cannot change the nature of our children no more than of ourselves. I think +++ is in a most deplorable situation: nearly in want of necessaries; as the tenants have paid no rent, or stript the lands and run away: the whole nation in a state of beggary. The fever has abated at C-- and his family narrowly escaped. His son is ruined &c &c. R---s mind is tortured on many accounts. — The breach is wider and wider between the parties; and religion nearly gone. You need not depend upon the account given to you by that man from Dublin. He might not know the real state of the case, or was instructed by the other party to say so and so. There may be some truth told: and yet the matter be wholly misrepresented. He says the party to which he inclines are daily increasing in numbers: and the old F---s are turned out in many places and in great distress; and they have sent some to England to beg for them, and tell lies in order to excite pity. — As to my own affairs, I might fill volumes; which would neither give you or myself any comfort. We can sympathize for one another: but cannot help: we are taught the necessity to fly to the strong for strength, and to the wise for wisdom. I have had many sorrowful parting scenes: first in parting from you and other friends, afterwards with my two daughters going to America; and now with my son who is gone to Liverpool, to sail from thence to New York. It is a most desperate case, considering the season of the year, with his wife and an infant a year and half old. — He was willing to go with T-- but she was not, now she is forced to comply as his affairs are become desperate. She is of a delicate constitution and not calculated to struggle with difficulties &c &c &c —

worse and worse, most horrid murders more than I ever remember, all
kinds of robbery, cheating, suicide, debauchery &c &c. We talk of savage
nations: but I tell the folks that wicked persons in these nations are a
hundred fold worse than in nations less enlightened: for in resisting the
light, their condemnation is the greater. And it is more than probable
that in another generation; your country will be overflowed with a
deluge of vice even more than it now is. I have hinted to those who have laid
down rules for the City of Mount Carmel, that human nature is the same:
and perhaps another race or generation will overturn all their good Laws
but let them guard as well as they can. Every individual must be born again
in every age: otherwise the tree in its wild state will bring forth crabs.
R-- was up at Derry two months ago; he saw a few women men and childn
lying behind a ditch, he supposed a dieing; one woman was turned out of a
house where she had been nursing, and died in two days. These things may
afford various reflections: but alas! how soon do men or a nation forget in a
day of health or prosperity. Thus it was with the Israelites of old. When Je=
surun waxed fat he kicked.— I hope T-- has got home safe by this time
It was well that he escaped from Cavan in time, as he might have caught the fever.
He will I hope begin now to think seriously and set about living to some purpose
One half of his life is lost, and he has not even began: but it is not too late. J. Mer-
on died in jail, rather suddenly, they know not well how.— Lady Barry (whose
husband will succeed to be earl of Farnham) is a pious woman. She has been
stumbled or offended by this contest in Ireland among the Meth.– and there
has been much talk about it among all classes. The Clergy approve of &
encourage that party, who profess to cleave to the Church. Mr. Wynne,
who is Vicar of Cavan, called on them and talked about the matter: and when Robt.
explained to him; he was well pleased and friendly. If the Methodists and
Clergy would join and assist each other; they might do much against pope=
ry. Yet it is wonderful how popery is increasing in this country: and the Je-
suists have a College in Lancashire, and are going on making Converts.
Our protestants understand very little of their own religion: and even the
higher orders are much in the dark; they see very little difference: and if they
can eat drink, and be merry, and enjoy their Estates, they care little about doc=
trines, or Church affairs.— R-- wishes you would correspond with his daughtr.
S--. They are sensible according to their opportunity: but these Meth.– disputes
have done them no good: and they reason in their minds why there should be such
things among religious people, &c It is not easy to answer honest enqui=
rers in these things; only exhort them to pray as well as they can to the Fa=
ther of light, and He will lead them into the Truth. Those who are sincere and
continue to ask.— This was the case with Cornelius the Roman Centurion:
and so it will be in every Climate and in every age: for GOD is no respecter of
persons: and so Peter was taught to believe. GOD's tender bowels of com=
passion yearn over every part of his creatures; He knows them and will
certainly act justly toward them. Let us have the most large and liberal
Ideas we can of God, in all his dealings with his creatures. Oh! that we could
love him more, and give ourselves up unreservedly into his hands, to be
disposed of as seemeth him best.— My two Daughters Lodges are better
in health than they have been, they have perhaps the two best husbands in Europe
are very tender over them, and very diligent in business they are all serious &
the elder has experimental religion.

It has been often remarked, that there ~~the~~ is generally one in a family that proves a cross to the rest. I know some at this time in London, whose parents are religious and industrious; yet some of the sons are the very reverse and are ruining the whole family. — I have long reflected on these things and cannot well account for it. — It may perhaps teach the parents to feel, that to change the heart is a work divine. They might be tempted to think, it was owing to their own merit or skill, that all their children were good, or better than others. But I only mention this as a conjecture that has passed thro' my mind: and I do not build upon it. However, let parents do the best they can, and pray for themselves and their children and set them an example. I have been very ill since the 10th of Octr with my old winter's complaint, abundance of phlegm choking me, a violent cough, little sleep at nights, many other pains, violent cramps in my legs and ancles, tearing the tendons or sinew almost asunder. To these are added painful exercises of mind, on acct of ---- &c. I strive to trust God in this and in all things. I am sure He will do what is right. Some Ideas have occurred to my mind within these two days, respecting the new intended City of M. C. which perhaps if I get strength, I may put into Rhyme; and send it to Dr M.D. — But this is all uncertain; as indeed are all our resolutions; for we know not what a day may bring forth. Little things of this kind, have sometimes relaxed the mind during a long and dreary confinement. But they may serve as sketches for others of my friends to enlarge upon at some future day. Let all, however, chiefly attend to things relating to a future and eternal state. — Amen! Our love to all Farewell

Yours J. C.

The following is missplaced, should have been before the two forgoing.

Augt 2d 1817

My Dear Sister

T--- has arrived here safe; and is now about to return home, and settle for life. I believe this excursion has done him good; though, perhaps, not exactly in the way he proposed to himself at setting out, God has overruled, and I trust will at length bring him to feel his wants, and what he is by nature as well as others. He begins to see that neither places, nor all that is to be seen in them, can give permanent satisfaction to the mind. He has made many useful reflections on what he has seen, and what he has passed through: and he now agrees with my observations, that employment of some kind even in temporal things is necessary for the mind: because it is ever roving after various pursuits, of some kind or other. It is well therefore, to turn it to something, that may be useful to others as well as ourselves. They who have nothing to do are most miserable; and the Enemy or rather their own corrupt nature will lead them to do mischief. T-- will give you a horrible picture of J---d. I believe he was glad to get away safe out of it: and what he has seen and heard there will be useful to him while he lives. Many are suffering the extremes of poverty and misery: and I think R---'s case is most deplorable of any of our relations: because he feels more in mind than others. You will get from ---- a fuller account of things there than I can give on paper. I write occasionally to R---and

My dear Sister   Sep.r 8th 1817

Though I wrote to you lately by your son who is now on his way home. I sit down to mention some more matters respecting our friends in Ireland and myself: which tho' they are not pleasant to our feelings; and we cannot help each other, yet we may sympathize with and pray for one another. Blessed be God, that we have this priviledge, and that he has given us a feeling sensibility for our friends.

Though ---- will give you an awful account of Ireland, when he was there yet some things have occurred since he left it, which are worse. A fever is spreading thro' many parts of the country, and carrying off numbers, as it were a kind of plague. supposed to be the consequence of bad and unwholesome food during the last year. It has reached Cavan: and the inhabitants are alarmed and afraid to go out into the street for fear of the infection, this was the case last week: a man lay dieing in the street. Poverty also stares them in the face. Our friends are suffering in various ways &c &c And I am myself nearly as bad as any of them. my son is reduced to distress, and had resolved to set off to America &c &c &c- and I require a little repose after having been long buffeted on the waves: but the storms seem to increase, and remind us that there is no rest on this side of Jordan. Oh! that we may all get over safe, and not be swallowed up in the waves, when just in sight of shore! I am endeavouring to exercise faith; and to put in practice what I recommended to others in speaking from that Text- Micah 7-7. which I am very fond of, and have often spoke from it. I have also recommended it to R--- The foregoing part of the Chap.r should be well ~~under~~ ~~stood~~ considered, which points out the state of the Church at that time, and the prophets own circumstances and feelings, and his resolution thereon.. The disputes among the Meth.s in Ireland is now come to an open division. The people from the North and some other parts sent Delegates to Dublin at the conference, ~~but~~ ~~for~~ to try to reconcile matters. They yielded in some things; but demanded a repeal of a decree of the conference last year respecting the Sacr.t —: but the Conference would not comply: then the Delegates, separated and went home, and they have formed a Conference of their own at Clones; and are sending out young preachers and such as they can get. &c there is a Lawsuit commenced in Chancery about the right to the Chapels, between both parties. What the end will be its hard to conceive. R-- is a Trustee for Cavan preaching house, and wishes to resign on acct of going to Law. It would be tedious to relate one thousand part of the evils and confusion that follows from these things: for neither party will profit in spirituals. There is great talk among the higher ranks about the Meth.t battle, as it is called: the Clergy approve of those of the Clones party; because they profess to cleave to the Church. Mr Dunn who is Rector of Belturbet is of this number. --- There is also some disputes and divisions here also among our people. And one old preacher has opposed D.r C-- on some points, and published a pamphlet: which will do no good, but puzzle the minds of the people and do them more harm than good. I see more and more daily of the depravity of human nature: how prone mankind are to contend with each other, yea, even the religious part of them. And I think they will never agree in every circumstance, during the

present state of things. If they agree in the great and essential points; they should bear with each other in lesser matters. ——
There is other things which grieves and perplexes me concerning some of the younger branches of the family &c &c &c. You know a good deal of the feelings of our family: we have felt much, and therefore have suffered much. But others seem to have no feelings at all, or care little for their best friends. I only mention these things, that you may join with us in constant prayer. R—— desired me to write to you that you might let our other friends know the affairs of Ireland, and the distress there at his desire; I wrote last Feb: to —— to try if he would remit something to these poor things at C——, I am loath to press any man in a matter of this kind. But they who have any thing to spare should give it in their own life time, and not leave much of it behind: and remember that it is not their own, but is given to them by GOD to distribute among those that are in want. R—— requests you will correspond with his Daug^r^ S——, who is sensible, if she had once spiritual views, or experimental knowledge. I need not say that all my faculties fail, and my infirmities encrease. I find it hard to bear up under a heavy weight of various afflictions: striving to hope and exercise a measure of faith. — Farewell pray for us. —— J. C.

Nov: 4. 1817

My dear Sister

I wrote to you, I believe in Sepr. I have now been confined to my room for some time: and will attempt once more to scribble something before I grow weaker. But where to begin or where to end, I know not. It would take many sheets to relate one tenth part of the sufferings and distress of our friends in Ireland: and a part of my own family here are likely to suffer much too. It does not answer any other end to relate those things to you or others; but that you may remember us in prayer, that we may be someway supported and brought through. — GOD doth all things well: and I trust all these will work together for good in the end. — A fever has prevailed for some months thro' most parts of Ireland: and has carried off many in a few days. At Cavan a board of health was formed &c &c. People were affraid to go out of doors: R——s family were in danger, as it was within two doors of them on each side. The beggers were all banished, as it was thought they brought it, from having lived on bad food the year before. A judge returning from circuit caught it and died. — I hope it is somewhat abated. The harvest has been pretty good and provision likely to be cheap. But rents can not be raised: the papists will pay none or are not able. It is in a deplorable way in this respect &c &c. The affairs of the Meth^ts^ in Ireland have been convulsed for a few years past a division has now taken place and they have commenced a suit in law. It has done much harm, and the worldly people are talking much about it: so that infidelity will increase. Many of the conf: preachers are distressed, being turned out, or not received by the people who have seen much of their overbearing conduct for a long time. Both parties will speak evil of each other. — Yet R—— hopes that some good may arise out of this, as the preachers will be more cautious in their conduct; and perhaps both parties will exert themselves the more. When we study human nature well, we will not be surprized at any thing that happens among men: for the heart of man is desperately wicked. —
The acts of wickedness perpetrated here every day seem to me to encrease

I have long ago formed my opinion about the Jews, that the time of their return to God is not yet come; tho' some people were full of it. I believe it will be in some extraordinary way, wherein the hand of GOD will be most manifest, without the instrumentality of man. With respect to the professing world of Christians; there is more noise about religion than reality. We have all need to take shame to ourselves that we have lived so far below our priviliges, and that light which we enjoyed: and all may well say "every moment, Lord, we need the merit of thy Death." —
I often look back at the mercies of GOD extended to me, and can in some measure apply these words of the Hymn to myself; — "O the infinite cares and temtations and snares Thy hand hath conducted me thro'! O the blessings bestowed, by a bountiful GOD, And the mercies eternally new!" —
As all are corrupt by nature, if any are preserved from some evils to which others are prone; it is all thro' the preventing or assisting grace of GOD. An old pious man John Bradford, who lived here about 250 years ago, when he saw a man going to be hanged, used to say "There goes John Bradford, only for the grace of GOD." — so may all say, concerning every vice. And we may use the words of the Psalmist "My heart sheweth me the wickedness of the ungodly." — We mourn [illegible] our posterity: we find we cannot change them, but we must look to Him who can do it, and who had mercy on us. He is able and willing. —
I would not advise T. J— by any means to not quit business, even if he could live independent. He need not be a slave to it; but it is well to be employed in something. Idleness is dangerous in every point of view. If he has any thing to spare he will have various opportunities of doing good; and find a happiness and pleasure in doing it. The Devil has various baits and snares to throw in the way of those who have nothing to do: — He talked of coming to settle here after he has acquired a sufficiency to support him: but he little knows that are like to take place, for the worse. I think that England has seen its best days, in a temporal sense. Whoever shall live 20 years hence will see or hear of mighty changes in most parts of the earth. And in the very nature of things, revolutions of some kind must take place. GOD's laws have been trampled under foot, and He will at length avenge himself of the ungodly. He lets them go on for a time, but he rises as it were, and crushes them in a moment, with a mighty hand. He is represented in one of the Psalms as awaking out of sleep. Let us all be prepared for every event. A prudent man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself. But where shall we hide, when GOD ariseth to shake terribly the earth. — I trust I shall get to the haven of rest, before these calamities happen; yet I cannot avoid being fearful for those I have behind. The mobs are like to do great mischief. [illegible] [illegible] been a rising of them lately, and some of them broke into gun shops [illegible] took away arms; some broke into Baker's shops and took away bread [illegible] are in a state of desperation for want of employ. Much money [illegible] been collected in order to feed the distressed; but there can be no employment invented, as there is no demand for manufactures. [illegible] afraid that even religious professors do not sufficiently see the hand of GOD [illegible] these things. Desire all your young friends to think much on their [illegible] [illegible]ies at present and live always prepared for other times. —

My dear Sister   Sept. 20th 1817

I have lately rec^d yours of the 6th of Jany I also rec^d in Decr yours dated Oct: 16. — I wrote to you about the beginning of Decr. I was then very poorly and have been confined chiefly to my bed-room for three months, I have of late ventured out a few times, and assisted three or four times at the Sac^t The mercies of GOD extended to me are wonderful: immense and free. On the 6th Inst. he has given me to see another birth-day, having closed my 78th year. I am looking back at all his dealings throughout life; and see his wisdom as well as goodness. Every disappointment, cross and affliction was all intended to operate as medicine or purging physic. But we do not like it or willingly submit to it; because it is bitter, and unpleasant to flesh and blood. But the wise Physician knows our disease best, and also the mode of cures. We may talk of this to others: but they must be taught by their own experience. —

There is nothing new in what you say of the disputes, divisions, and subdivisions among the various denominations of professors in your country. The same has prevailed here and in all countries and in all ages of the church: and I fear will continue some time longer: untill there shall be some mighty change in the state of things, by some wonderful display of GOD's power, which no man at present can describe. Whoever studies human nature well, and long, will not be surprised at any thing that comes to pass in the present state of things. The human heart is deceitful above all things: and perhaps it will take all Eternity fully to comprehend the fallen nature of man.

You may advise young folk not to be puzzled too much looking at the various sects and different oppinions among professors: let them pray the more fervently to GOD to be directed to the truth. We can not forbid them to hear and to judge for themselves: but let them not hastily join any sect or party. Every sect may have something good in it: and it takes much time and a good judgment to investigate matters. But I think the soul that is simple and earnestly seeking in secret prayer will not be disappointed in the end. I don't find that the New Jerusalem Church here have done much good: They may say good things, and perhaps some useful doctrine but if I understand right, I believe they deny the Divinity of Christ; tho' they may, like Socinians, speak highly of him. This deceives the common hearers. There has been much disputing about this point; and is still. None but GOD can comprehend himself; and why should creatures contend about what they never can comprehend. — When I speak of Christ, I mean the Eternal GOD, revealed in human nature: and there can be but one GOD. —

With respect to your moving to some other place; much may be said for and against it. &c. If you had a sufficiency to live on; in a part of a house, and get some one to help to do the work of the house. Even living with near relations does not always answer: for they will not agree in every thing, or some bickerings will happen. I hope GOD will direct you in this as well as in all things. T— may move from place to place or leave business: but this will not make him happy. Contentment must be in the mind; otherwise no place on earth will confer happiness. — This country is likely to be embarressed more and more and all Europe is in a miserable way. All nations in every age, have their rise and fall: and the same causes will always produce the same effects. I think America will prosper for a century or two; and then, like others, thro' pride and luxury it will come down. I read a book to this purport written by a sensible scotchman about 200 years ago, on the rise and fall of all nations from the earliest ages: that the same cause will assuredly produce the same effect.

Pray for us all — Farewell —

J. C.

Your views about the preachers admin^y the Sac^t — &c are just the same as mine. America was not exactly in the same circumstances as our nations. It is long before old prejudices are worn away: the old Meth^s were trained up to believe they were still members of the Esta= blished Church. But the preachers have gradually brought about a change in England: they admin^r every where; and are therefore a distinct Sect: and they are about the same in Ireland; which has caused a great ferment there for two years past. — If the souls of the people are pro= fited by any means, or any instrument, I can greatly rejoice; and I said to a person here many years ago that I could (for myself) as easily receive the Sacr^t from a preacher, as to hear him preach: but as I was situated, it would stumble others were I to do so. — However in America you have nothing to do with these disputes: and even with you, changes will take place from time to time among all denominations. If good is done and all act with a single eye, it will be well. But it is my opinion, that even good people will differ in judgement whilst this world, or this state of things, lasts. This must be the case in the nature of things, from their habits, constitutions, and a thousand circumstances. — It is melan= cholly to hear that where the Gospel light shone, under the Apostles; the grossest darkness now prevails. —

It is right that they who labour for the good of others, should have a reasonable support, according to the ability of the people: and also when they are old or past labour, they should be taken care of; but on the other hand, too many forget their first resolutions, when they set out to preach the Gospel, to live so, and so, and deny themselves. & they grasp at rich= es, and complain if they are not pampered &c suitable to their rank.

As to the revival in Cornwall, you mention, there was great noise about it here; but I pay little regard to these accounts: they are generally exaggerated; and after some time, there is little to be found of the good which was said to be done. About 16 years ago, there was a great and wild work in Cornwall; and when Dr Clarke visited the place about two years after, he confessed to me in a private Letter, that he could scarcely find any of those great numbers that were said to be Converted. And look at your own States: what are the effects of those Camp-meetings and all the wonderful work said to be done at them? I wish that all would study hu= man nature well; and the constitution of man. A sudden work wrought up= on the passions, seldom stands long. President Edwards wrote a judicious and calm Treatise upon that subject, about 70 years ago. I would recommend both preachers and people to read it without prejudice. — The accounts also about the Missionaries are frequently misrepresented. But I suspend my judgment a while, and we need not wonder at this, when we hear and see many things in ourselves, or those around us. Alas! — what is man! — R— says another paper has been lately printed by the Stewards and 40 Leaders of 4 Circuits in the North against what they call priest — making, that is ordi= nation and admin^y the Sacr^t — Some of these had been presbyterians or Seceders, and some are going back^d to the Established Church. — but as I said before, we need not wonder at these and such things.

This whole country is in the utmost distress. Such is the state of the world in all ages; checkered with various events: but there is most of evil in it by reason of sin. I am striving to live by the moment, as for an eternal world. Oh! may we attain a union with the Deity; which constitutes the happiness of the creature. With love to all: — Farewell —

R. C.

My Dear Sister, 11

Tho' scarcely able to sit or to hold up my head I
attempt to write something once more before I go hence, I could fin[d]
matter to fill ten sheets if I had strength: but I know not where to begi[n]
or to end. To describe the state of my body and various afflictions is impo[ssi-]
ble for me. I thank God, my mind is in its usual state not in outward
rejoicing, but calmly relying on the only sure foundation, and the merit
of the attoning blood. I want to be filled with Deity: because I believ[e]
it is our privilege. In present afflictions and crosses it helps me when I look back
and reflect on what he has done and what I have been brought thro': and the[n]
I think that the same Power is able to support. At present, I labour under [a]
most severe attack having caught cold, as it is called. It affects me in various w[ays]
and deranges the whole animal system, or constitution: violent pain in head, [and]
lungs oppressed with phligm, which almost chokes me and an incessant co[ugh]
This has been the case for many years; but every additional attack, come[s]
upon an old shattered frame. Yet I am a wonder to many as well as to mysel[f]
that I exist at all; and I have weathered out till near the close of my 7[?]th yea[r]
That line often occurs to me — "Oh! to grace, how great a debtor." — Our who[le]
being, from beginning to end is of grace or free mercy: but it is well for ev[ery]
person to look at the particular mercy bestowed upon him. I have long loo[ked]
ed at the innumerable bitter draughts which I have drank; and the dis[-]
appointments and opposition I have met with in my progress thro' lif[e]
and I see they were all permitted for my good. Others cannot enter into our [case]
to understand it like ourselves. One's own experience is better than all that ot[hers]
can tell us. All our ~~friends~~ family have been called to suffer in variou[s]
ways, and I trust they have all experienced some benefit by it. If we gain th[e]
port of rest at last it will be all clear gain. Let us constantly look to our Pilo[t]
and he will guide us safe. He well knows the waves and storms thro' which
we have to pass. — Some others of my family are afflicted at present, and the [...]
distress is general thro' the country for want of employment. The distress is increased by th[e]
constant rain which has destroyed almost all the fruits of the earth: and thi[s]
is general thro' most of Europe. The summer was extremely cold. and it rai[n-]
ed here almost incessantly for six months except about a fortnight in Sep[tembe]r
some parts of Germany, Switzerland and the' borders of France, the rivers rose to [an]
astonishing height and swept away cattle and the produce of the ground. [There]
was extraordinary hail storm in other places; which did great damage. There
is something like famine already, among the poor and labouring people, [who]
can get no employment at all: and this will probably be followed with [dis-]
ease. — Yet this has been often the case of the world, thro' all ages: but in a state [of]
prosperity men are prone to forget the bountiful Donor of every good gi[ft.]
If we would read the history of the Jews thro' all ages with attention; we wo[uld]
see the history of human nature. In their afflictions, they cried unto the
Lord: but when Jeshurun waxed fat, he kicked. Therefore God is not just one
but merciful in chastising, and disappointing men in their pursuits. [The]
state of Ireland is beyond description miserable &c &c. As this calami[ty]
is not peculiar to one nation; it will be long before they will recover. The [war]
has impoverished all Europe: when they grow rich, pride will work [in]
them [...] to go to fight again; and so it goes round from age to age. Som[e]
say you[r] States ~~[...]~~ is nearly as b[ad] as ours. —

exempt from a share of troubles in time. The best way to look at
these things, or account for them, is to study human nature well; and
then we will wonder at nothing. —— Amidst all these things, you may be
sure that Ireland has a large share in the distress of the times; and
[illegible] dear friends are suffering much, &c —— Time would fail to speak
afflictions &c — but what else can be expected here? Let us rather
all upon the mercies of our long suffering and indulgent Father. ——
Those at C— may be glad they are there: and if they behave well, they
may get thro' life much better than in + + + + But then the nature
of all must be changed, before they can act aright: and there must be
constant application to a throne of grace to enable us to live pleasing to
[illegible]D. — I have wrote lately to some of our friends at + + + and also to J. M. D. These
by way of farewell Letters: as they can scarcely expect any more from
my feeble state. Indeed it is a wonder I can write at all. My body is in such
[illegible] state as I cannot describe; and all my faculties of seeing, hearing, spe[illegible]
memory &c are almost quite gone. Most of my old acquaintance here
gone. Sh— — faculties seem to be gone more than mine: and he says
trials are such as I can little comprehend. This is true. Every heart
[kn]ows its own bitterness: and I see that all the bitter draughts our family
drank, were intended by our wise physician for our health. Oh! that
may have that effect! —— They expected to have a great contest at
Conf: in Dublin about these disputes which has been these 2 years. A. C.
gone over as president: he is for the Order — and Sacr.t &c. I wish
good were done to the souls of the people at any rate; which I fear
[i]s the case. Some persons here and in other parts of England begin
[op]en their eyes, and see things as I saw and knew 25 years ago. A small
[pam]phlet was put into my hands lately printed at Manchester last year.
[W]riter calls himself an old Member of the Meth: society; but does not sign
[n]ame. He states the arbitrary conduct of the preachers and their de-
[sire] to have the govern.t in all temporal concerns, and Chapels, as well as
[sp]irituals; and many other things which I know to be true: He
[wi]th one light exactly the same as I myself have had for some years —
[th]at an increase of members is no proof of Spiritual prosperity, nor even
[mo]ral improvement. If it were so, the Catholic Church might have boast[ed]
and perhaps may still boast." —— Indeed the professors of religion is
[beco]me more fashionable now; as there is no persecution; and there may
[be a] degree of conformity where there is but little experience, or life in the
[soul]. I am glad however that a degree of light is spreading in the
[w]hich may, perhaps, work gradually for good. I know the best
[ne]ed to be humbled; because they live below their privileges:
[the] greater the light, the greater the condemnation, if men do
[not live] up to, or walk in that light. —— I see more and more of the de-
[pravity] of human nature every day. The more we consider it the more
[astonish]ing: and I have often said that it seems to take all Eternity to
[compreh]end that evil. —— I enjoy inward peace or a relyance on the mercy
[of God]: but I never had much of what some call joy, or extacy; tho' at some times, I
[was o]verwhelmed with what I call the presence of God, so that I could hardly
[spea]k: and at those times, I felt the deepest sense of my own unworthiness. I a[m]
constantly praying that I may be fully made partaker of a divine nature,
[unite]d in Deity, so as to become one spirit with Him; which I believe is
[privi]lege. But I fear most professors are living far below this. Farewell: with
love to all friends I am yours &c. [illegible]

My dear Sister April 1st 1816

I have lately rec.d your Letter of Nov: The sermons I sent by T— Some of them you may send, when you get a safe conveyance to our other friends. I don't suppose they will make much use of them; but they may keep them safe to some future day as a little memorial of me. You likewise if you have leisure to transcribe them send some of those little [illegible]ic pieces, to the young folks to amuse them a little. Tho' many of them are [not] serious; yet you may perceive my design is chiefly to expose some vice, or recommend some virtue: and I go upon a principle which I adopted from an old Latin poet, when at school: which is that "Ridicule commonly has a greater effect than a grave discourse." The ungodly are frequently using their wit and mockery against serious things and it is a good way to turn the tables upon them. There are two or three more serious pieces which you will understand. I have lately been reading over my own Letters to [illegible]h— which I extracted about two years ago; and find them very useful to myself; as they bring many things to my mind which I forgot. What use my children will make of them, it is hard to say, as they are like others. I have for years been reflecting on the mercies of GOD, extended to me, in the midst of the most severe trials and afflictions of various kinds. I see every thing as mercy; tho' I can not get others to see things as I do. When I have said that GOD did not choose that I should be rich and that prosperity is most commonly dangerous; it seemed foolish doctrine to some, who said they were resolved to be rich. But God is like to disappoint them [struck out]. Our country is in a most deplorable condition, tho' we have peace: the taxes continue in consequence of the war; no trade or business doing. I have long thought that the world will not be long at peace for ages yet to come. Human nature is still the same: and pride and ambition will always work up nations as well as individuals to strife, and rapine, and war. Tho' the nations of Europe are at peace, they are all suffering the consequences of war. France are not at all satisfied with their King &c Buonaparte is kept as a prisoner in the Island of St Helena. I have still some forebodings that GOD has some more work for him to execute, as an instrument to scourge: for, why is it that he has been preserved so wonderfully and so long? — But if he is not other instruments will arise, from time to time, just as the King of Assyria was a rod of old. — I am writing to some friends in different parts I endeavour to amuse myself with one thing or other, being chiefly confined to my bed-room, since Christ.s I was for some weeks in such a way that I believe my family had little hopes: my breath was very short, and I I sat up mostly in bed at night. — As to temporal things all my family is tolerable at present. Yet, I am not without my cares about spirituals: and I am quite alone in my room; having no soul to converse with that has any experimental knowledge: this you may judge must be grievious. — I endeavour to make an allowance for the young and inexperienced: we cannot expect good fruit from the tree untill it is changed, or engrafted into the true Stock. All we can say has little effect; the things of time and sense engross their attention: and they encourage themselves because they have a large majority on their side; and they think all these cannot be wrong; therefore they must learn by experience: but this is often bought very dear. Another great hinderance to them is, the inconsistant conduct of professors: and they look most at the worst side, and therefore continue hardened in unbelief.—

Let us pray on for those we have behind: perhaps they may be brought
to a knowledge of themselves when we are laid in dust. Robt — mentions
that brother D—'s prayers are partly answered, as one of his daus is con
verted; as there is a revival of religion at Ed—— A woman called Miss Cam
bridge was preaching in that country, she preached at Ch—— a few days
before he wrote. The [illegible] in Ireland are striving to make Collections
to lessen some of their embarrassments; but the people in Ireland
are greatly distressed as they are worse in some respects than even in the
war: and great insurrections are at this time in Tipperary, Limerick
and Waterford. So that the Govr have put them parts under military
law: and are condemning and transporting some of the disturbers! I
feel for the wretches; yet I know not can be done: for if they were in a
state of prosperity they would be worse, or unmindful of God. We
need not wonder at this when we consider the conduct of those who
enjoy more light. Look at the history of the Jews in all ages; it is
the history of human nature to the end of this state of things. We are
much oppressed with burdens in this country; tho' we are not in the
circumstances of other nations. Our Meth— connexion is greatly in
debt; and the London Circt very much at this very time. There is
some good doing, I believe in some places: but the number of
preachers increasing too much; and many large Chapels being
built for many years, has embarrassed the Connexion very much.
I have been long grieved at these things: but I endeavour now to
give the matter up; as I cannot prevent the evil which I fore see
and especially as I have things to exercise me at present, which
are enough to overwhelm me in the deep waters. (The following was
wrote in a time of distress of a peculiar nature.)

I am striving to exercise a measure of faith, and look back at the
kind dealings of God, and ~~look back at the kind dealings of~~ his
mercies bestowed upon me all the way. To give you any adequate Idea
of the furnace I am going thro' at present is beyond the power of any
language of mine. I can only leave all to God. I would not mention
these things, only that you may see how I am, and pray: for my body, weak
at the best, is tottering more and more; whilst the mind is thus exercised,
yet I have a firmness of mind still with respect to eternal things; which
I trust will never forsake me. But it is natural for us to feel, and to
foresee the evils coming upon those who are near to us. You can judge
of this. —— These things are permitted to draw us to prayer.
Last spring I read a paper inserted in a Mag: written by St Chris
sostom who was Bishop of Constantinople upwards of 14 hundred
years ago. It is most excellent. God is a refuge in the time of trou
ble. but in prosperity men naturally forget him; just like the Is=
raelites of old, When Jeshurun waxed fat, he kicked. Man is prone
to depart from the living God, and set up Idols in his heart. But
God will not have a divided heart. Oh! may he take full possession
of our hearts; and never leave or forsake us! — May we and all those
that are dear unto us be found watching and ready, amidst the wreck
of matter, and the crash of worlds! — Farewell Farewell give my dy
ing love to all friends at Chill—e I fear I shall not be able to visit them
any more &c——

I am glad to hear of those at C---; and I hope they will go on to more light, life, &c &c. It is our privelige to be made partakers of a divine nature here; or to be united to God. — Scarce one night or day passes here, but we hear of robbery, murder or suicide. The Coroners are kept busy, for six months, there was three or four inquests every day held by the Coroner. — Many persons have died in one moment. One of our old preachers died about a month ago: he went to bed pretty well; and was found dead on the floor in the morning. About a year ago, two more in the same way, one of them who came over in the ship with T--- Also Bradburn died sudenly in Augt last: he had been a long time laid aside, as his mind was weak or deranged. I have now been confined to my room three weeks: but am worse when I finish this Decr 12th — 1816. — Just forty years ago, on this day God was graciously pleased to adopt the most unworthy, into his family. Glory to his name! — Give my love to all friends. I commend you all to great Protector. &c &c

J C

The following should have been placed before the last.

Augt 20 — 18

My Dear Sister

I rec^d yours of the 26th May in due time. It is a mercy that we can thus hear occasionally from each other. I struggle on strangely, often shaken by fresh attacks or cold &c confined to bed a while, and venturing out again; so that the people think I am so ill or worn as I am. In addition to many things I have been called to go through, I have lately lost my wife, who died the 2^d of June. She had been ill in the winter for some months with oppression on the lungs and breath, but she was better for some time till in the end of May she was seized with a shivering and fever which carried her off in six days. She was sensible: but not able to speak in a distinct manner. The Doc^r thought she had collected water on the ... She was seventy years of age, or, I believe more. Her understanding rather weak; but she had many peculiar excellencies: and was very ... according to her light. She could not bear those professors, who seem ... with some duplicity. Mrs H — and her 2 youngest chil^dn are with me &c ... With all our difficulties, we have had many mercies mixed: and we are ... to trust the same kind Providence who has hitherto brought us thr... Indeed I am looking back with wonder at all his kind dealings. All is mercy, free mercy! — My son is struggling with great di... &c &c — Indeed the distress in business, trade, &c &c is universal. ... peace will not continue long in any part of the world, whilst the ... of human nature remains: It was only poverty, that brought on ... peace; and poverty may keep them at peace a little longer: but ... ry will stir up pride again, and then they go to fight a while again. ... The french are divided among themselves, and opposed to their king; who ... on his throne by England and the other States of Europe. He is put... of his subjects to death for treason, &c &c. Spain is in as much th... and weak king is under the government of crafty priests. Popery see... reviving. but I think the higher it rises, the greater will be its fall: fall it must, if the word of God be true. Spanish America is ... way: but the inocent blood of Millions has been long crying from ... ground; and God is now avenging it. I think your States

My dear Sister   Hackney Aug. 24. 1815

I put it down to scribble a few lines to you once more; but I need not say much as T--- can let you know how we all are &c. I send by him some more of my sermons printed in 1812 and some other papers. You may send some of them little things to my relations; they may wish to have some of them however trifling to read at a future day. I have transcribed several of them, written occasionally and merely for amusement. And tho' they may to some seem ridiculous: yet I have always one thing in view; to expose some vice or recommend some virtue. I met in an old Author, when at school — "that ridicule has often a greater effect than a grave discourse." — The ungodly will not read a thing if it has a serious Title: therefore they may be allured by something queer, or curious. I only mention this by way of explanation; as some simple people might put an unfavourable construction upon what is written with the above intent. There are two or three things which will suit you; as they allude chiefly to my own experience. One of them was addressed to a friend a few years ago, who had a dream concerning me. The other, in the character of an old sailor, was addressed to another friend lately. The experienced Christian will understand them as it suits a severely tried Christian, when passing thro' the furnace. I look back at the dealings of God with me all my life; and see that all his dispensations were in wisdom, to imbitter life to me, and wean me from this empty world. — Oh! that I could love and praise him more and more: for all is mercy, immense and free! — I had a long and dreary winter, sitting up most of the night in bed, striving to get up the phlegm, and coughing most severely &c — I am a wonder to myself, as well as to many. I am advanced now seven months in my 77th year. I had much of the presence of God for a time in the winter. I have this only <u>occasionally</u>; as a little encouragement that God has not forsaken me: but people's experiences may vary in some shades or degrees: therefore let no one lay down his own experience as a standard to others. If a change is wrought, and the person be seeking after purity of heart, I do not quarrel with him, tho' his experience may in some things differ from mine. There is some likeness in the faces of all mankind; and yet they all differ: so do their education, their constitution, and their manners, &c. &c. We are in the hands of Him that knoweth all; and knoweth what degree of light or opportunity each has had; and whether they have improved the one, two, or five talents; and He will certainly judge with equity, and do what is right. I hope you have destroy'd all my Letters before now; except you thought proper to make extracts. — Many things are written in a familiar way to a friend; which ought not be seen by others. I spent some months last year, abridging and extracting my own Letters to R--- which I had at length got from him: for I was afraid they might fall into the hands of others. It is astonishing to myself how much I wrote, in a great hurry, and amidst other cares, and much afflictions, &c.

but I seemed every moment to be on the brink of Eternity; and therefore struggled to let him know all that I thought. On reading these papers, I had the same views and am confirmed in all things.——

There is great talk about religion at this time; and a degree of light widely diffused: and certainly some are deeply experienced and walking humbly before God. yet still I think that every Sect and party has degenerated in times past. and so it will be, at least for a considerable time, or perhaps some ages yet to come. If human nature, and various circumstances be duly considered; this will not seem strange. Yet God always had and will have a Church upon earth; which is made up of individuals in all nations:- & this constitutes the Catholic or universal Church. I believe the world is not so near an end as many have imagined. Much is to be done: and tho God can do a great work in a short time; yet he generally proceeds by degrees or according to a stated Order. He will perhaps near the end or in the bringing in of the Jews, work in some extraordinary way which no mortal could have fore seen. These are only some of my conjectures: for the wisest man upon earth knows but very little. There has been a warm contention during this last year among the Meth^{o} in Ireland; as some wanted to admin^{r} the Sacr^{t}— which would be a total separation from the Church. They have lately made a sort of peace, or to desist for the present: but I think they will go on in a secret way, untill they gradually bring it about, as they did in England. R— has long been in a very trying way with them and will be so as long as he lives.—— Farewell: may we be faithful unto death and prepared for mansions above!——

J. C.

My Dear Sister Hackney Nov. 4th 1815

Yours of the 17th of Augt came to hand in due time. Your anxiety about your son is natural. but I hope you will have the pleasure of meeting him again, safely returned at—— where perhaps he is arrived by this time when I now write. I hope his journey has been useful to him upon the whole: and he may reflect in future on many things. R—— Daugh^{r} E——, who came over here with—— is returned home; and her father thinks she has got a great deal of knowledge of one kind or other. Traveling tends to expand the mind and many might improve more by it than they generally do. I approve of young persons endeavouring to see every thing worth seeing when they go abroad: because seeing with the eye gives Ideas which no description on paper can give.—— My old winter's complaint is begun already, having got a cold a few days ago. R—— has suffered much about ——— who he has settled almost all his property and the house at L—— on. He has suffered much in mind, as well as the rest of us. It is right that we should suffer. but sufferings do not always answer the end, because all do not receive them as they ought as corrections from a kind and loving Father. Our family have had a pretty large share of sufferings; and they are increasing as we grow older. Oh! that it may have the blessed effect of bringing us closer to our centre, or in other words, bring us to partake of the divine nature, to qualify us for a share of glory which God has prepared for them that love and serve him here.——

and will do it in the way, and in such manner as may seem best to himself. Much is writing and much publishing here among all parties and tho' they have different oppinions in somethings; yet they agree in this point, to distribute the Bible without any notes. Some of the priests on the continent agree to this: but the Irish papists and those here, have a desire to distribute their own Bible with their own notes upon it. This we do not like. Indeed the Irish papists are even more bigoted and violent than even those on the continent: and they are at this time stirred up about a Bill which is bringing into Parl.t in their favour; but they are not content, untill they get every thing in Ireland in their power both in Church and state. I greatly fear there will be a dreadful conflict and shedding of blood in that country in some time. Many of the people here do not see this, or will not believe that things are so bad; but they have no conception of what the spirit of popery is. — When I take a retrospective view of my past life; I see the mercies of GOD more and more: yea, all is free mercy, thro' the merits of our Lord. The Calvinists always misrepresent us as if we held the merit of works, or were doing something as it were to gain the favour of GOD. Those who are deeply experienced on both sides will come near to each other, and much controversy in the religious world hath arisen about words or terms; when perhaps they meant the same thing, or nearly so. It would be well if all parties would bear more with each other. I bless GOD for what he has done for me, who deserved nothing at his hand; and I have preached free grace to others, when I was any way able. I am now little out of my room: sometimes I have ventured into Town to assist at the Sacr.t My experience is not of the rapturous kind that some speak of; but I am calm within, and am not harassed with doubts or fears: yet I know not what may yet happen; for some are tried most at the last. R—. and I agree that our trials increase with age; and all will be tried to the utmost. Jesus alone must support and deliver. — With love to all friends. — Yours — J. C.

My dear Sister — Feb: 16. 1815

After a long silence, I set about scribbling to have it ready when the intercourse between this country and yours shall take place: which I expect will soon begin, as terms of peace have been signed here and sent to your President to sign. But I shall not spend much paper on this head; most of us are glad of peace; and I wish it may be a permanent one through all the world. —

I wrote to Mr D—re in May last. I desired him to acquaint you of the death of our dear brother Wm on the 22d of April. I wrote to you by the way of Madeira. I hope you have got it long since. In it I gave the particulars of Wm's release from a world of sorrow and triumphant death, as it was given to me by R.— As to myself and family, it would be a long history to relate. I am still in the body, as by miracle, a monument of mercy; a wonder to others as well as to myself. I was confined to my room at different times, about six months in the whole, during the last year. I was confined at the time when the great foreigners were in London, I saw nothing of them: great entertainments and rejoicing on account of the peace of Europe. The autumn was very fine, I revived; till Nov: and from that time I am confined, till now. I ventured out on New year's day to assist at the Covenant; but am worse since. Thus I work on strangely; I feel a strong sensation of the presence of the Lord at times: especially before a new trial: and something very distressing is constantly happening.

so that, as R- says, crosses, &c seem to rise out of the dust. It will be so as long as we are here; and they are all permitted for our good, by our wise Physi:cian. I never can see an inch or hair streak before me, therefore I am forced to exercise that measure of faith I have more and more. I wish to be entirely engaged in things pertaining to another world: yet I can not avoid the thoughts that occur concerning those of my family that are like to be in distress. &c &c ———

R... is still harrassed in his mind about some men, and their manner of carrying on their schemes. They still call at his house, tho' they have long been planning to shove him out. They were about to ordain themselves and ad:min.r the Sacr.t they kept this private: but it slipt out some way at last Cons: the people of Dublin then remonstrated against it: and in Nov.r held a meeting and resolved to abide by the old plan of Meth-m they then printed the paper and all the Leaders of Dublin signed it, and have circulated it thro' the King:dom; so that I suppose there will be a great ferment among them: Some of the peo:ple in the North are for the Dissenting plan; and I suppose the preachers en:courage these; and will work gradually upon the minds of others, untill they gain their point. And when they get their own will, they will be no better; nor will it promote the internal work in the soul.

I know not if our sister O... be living or not. She was very ill when she was at R...s two years ago. Her family also were suffering much every way. But R. had a high oppinion of her experience, when she was with him; and if she is gone, I trust it is all well. Oh! shall we all meet on the happy shore? Some of the host have crossed the flood, and some are crossing now.

I got a Letter from R- yesterday. He is still afflicted; but is comforted of late by a revival in a part of the parish between the Bishop's and Fleming mount, chiefly by the exhortation and prayers of a woman there. Two sincere men of his class act as leaders there now. But the war between the Meth- throughout the kingdom is like to be dreadful: they are printing Letters against each other: some of the preachers against the other preachers. This is awful.

I sent to ... some pamphlets on the Wisdom of Solomon, with an Appendix containing some Texts which I think have been greatly mistaken, I could add many other Texts which are mistaken, tho' they are in every body's mouth. One I printed in our Mag: about eight years ago, on providing for those of our household: &c — The Apostle does not there speak about providing for our family things necessary for that is every ones Duty; but he gives Timothy directions concerning widows and the poor. If a man has a poor mother, Aunt &c &c, and can afford to keep her, he should not throw her as a burden upon the society or poor list. If he does when he can support her, he is worse than an Infidel. In that Text Gal: 5.4.— the word grace here does not mean a state of grace in the soul: but the gracious plan of acceptance; thro' faith alone, without any works of the law. Some of the Galatians were going back to the Mosaic Law &c. The Apostle says such have departed from the gracious plan of the Gospel of Christ: which is to be freely saved through the mere mercy of God. — The exercise of my mind is greater and greater at this time. I strive to stand still in the furnace: it is hard work. I have confidence in God. Endeavour to pray for us as well as you can. ———

J. F.

My Dear Sister Hackney Dec: 4th 1812

I rec.d in due time both your Letters. It is a mercy that we have been enabled thus far to correspond. Whether this will reach you, is uncertain: and whether you will receive another from me is very improbable, considering my present state of health, and the winter before me. My body is reduced to such a state as you cannot conceive &c -- I am endeavouring to exercise faith and prayer, and in general I enjoy serenity of mind, and sometimes consolations from the Divine Spirit. But I have the most trying exercise of mind lately concerning &c --&c I leave you to reflect on the situation of my mind. I can do nothing but look to God, and leave all to his disposal. We must be brought to submit to his will in every thing; and we know that he will do what is perfectly right. He lets us know and feel our own weakness to change our selves; much more that of others. One said "Experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in no other."— We may tell young people again and again, what we have suffered and gone thro'; but it has no effect, nor does it sink into their minds. Well then faith and prayer is our only refuge; and I have often thought that God permits us parents to be exercised with children, that we may be taught to feel our dependance upon him in this as well as in other ways respects. --(After mentioning things very grievous he says) Sin is the cause of all these evils" I feel much for our friends situation in the back country. Give my love to them all when you write. Exhort one another to hold fast by Christ, and retain a good conscience. I trust God will be your sun and your shield in this cloudy day. We should all be looking back at the mercies of God which he has mingled with our afflictions and cares. What ~~were~~ we or our father's house more than others? I have long been tracing back every event of ~~my~~ my past life; and see how all the disappointments, and crosses, &c were intended by a kind providence to work together for my good: for I see more and more how prone we are to forget God, when things go on with ease and without much trouble: but I cannot make my family see things in this light; because they like others wish to shun the cross or to be in some sort independent. I did not want to be rich, but I wished to be in some degree independent, so as to pay every one, and live moderately. But God would not have it so; and I was forced all my life to submit to things contrary to flesh and blood, or to my inclination, &c

I sent you some time ago two packets, containing two sermons which I printed lately, as a kind of farewell to the congregation at the new chapel. I hope you have got them. If an opportunity would occur, I would send more for the use of my friends: but we are precluded, and must therefore pray for each other. No distance, seas, or wars can prevent prayer. Praise the Lord for this, Oh! when will the inhabitants of the world be united in spirit? Only when they are united to one Centre, even Him who is the center of eternal and permanent bliss, Lord unite us to thyself, and make us partakers of a divine nature! — I see more and more daily of the difficulty which parents have with respect to their children; and they are generally worse after they are grown up; and some soon after they are married. An old acquaintance of mine gave me about a month ago a very distressing account of his youngest son. He went away to follow his own will, in various places. at last was arrested and put into jail where he remained five months; the father paid for his board &c which cost him

£120, then he wrote them penitential Letters and promised &c they ill be sent him home to be employed by an elder brother; but he stayed only two days they: went off again, they know not where and they are obliged to give him up entirely; for he would ruin all the family. I have written this paper by scraps, sometimes when I get out of bed. My mind is so divided with various things, that I cannot write with connection. I would wish to have nothing to mind but eternal things, and be composed; but various things daily occur, and seem to spring as it were out of the dust. R---- says the care, and feels in ten thousand ways. Our family have feelings very acute and therefore we feel more than others. — R--- is encouraging me to think that this is the last attempt of my spiritual enemies to harrass me; and that I shall overcome them by the sword of the spirit. I am exercising faith, hope, and prayer for my family; as I feel more for them than I do for myself. I know I can do nothing, or bear nothing, except I am supported for the moment; what I shall have to go thro' yet, I must leave to Him who knoweth all things. I would wish to have a spiritual friend to converse with: my Daug- and their husbands are tolerable well for their age; but they are not sufficiently enlightened or experienced, to enter minutely into things. I have no soul to converse with but God; I am for the most part entirely alone: my only refuge is prayer; Oh! help if you can by prayer. — I have some satisfaction in writing to ++++ or hearing from him, tho' his letters are nothing but one continued scene of distresses of himself or some others. He says he is resolved not to puzzle or perplex himself more about ++++ for he sees they will go on in their own way, and that he cannot mend them. I told him this long ago. Disputes & wrangling arise in various places; the ++++ want money to carry on the work as they call it; and the people cannot afford it by the distress of the times. This is so here too; and many of the most sensible see many things which they cannot approve. It is the same in your country, for human nature is always the same. —— Give my love to your His and other friends.

J. C.

Hackney May 1813

My dear Sister

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter the 7th of May. What delayed it I know not, except the difficulties of the times. We live indeed in perilous times: and I fear they are not yet at an end. Tho' we in England feel the burthen of taxes and other things; yet the misery of the people of most parts of Europe, and horrible slaughter of mankind is beyond our comprehension; and what no pen can describe. The most part of the immense army of the French were destroyed in Russia last winter by the cold and inclemency of the season: yet another immense army is collected again and they are engaged in fighting again in Germany and Prussia &c The Lord is shaking mightily the nations, to bring them to humiliation, that they may acknowledge him; and submit to his government and laws. In the midst of all this, some good is doing, and many of our great folks, and some of our Royal princes are exerting themselves to diffuse the Scriptures throught the world, hoping that it may be a means of enlightening mankind, and of producing the best effects. This is certainly a token for good, and I hope it is preparing for better times, which I shall not live to see nor perhaps even my grand Chil-dren. However I know that God will perform what he has declared;

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that we have been enabled thus far to correspond. Whether this will reach
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and sometimes consolations from the Divine Spirit. But I have the most
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rit? only when they are united to one Centre, even Him who is the centre
of eternal and permanent bliss. Lord unite us to thyself, and make us
partakers of a divine nature! — I see more and more daily of the diffi-
culty which parents have with respect to their children; and they are ge-
nerally worse after they are grown up; and some soon after they are mar-
ried. An old acquaintance of mine gave me about a month ago a very
distressing account of his youngest son. He went away to follow his own
will, in various places, at last was arrested and put into jail where he re-
mained five months; the father paid for his board &c which cost him

£ 120, then he wrote them penitential Letters, and promised &c they ill be so.... him home to be employed by an elder brother; but he stayed only two days, then went off again, they know not where, and they are obliged to give him up entirely for he would ruin all the family. I have written this paper by scraps, sometimes when I get out of bed. My mind is so divided with various things, that I can not write with connection. I would wish to have nothing to mind but eternal things; and be composed; but various things daily occur, and seem to spring as it were out of the dust. R---- says the same, and feels in ten thousand ways. Our family have feelings very acute, and therefore we feel more than others. — R--- is encouraging me to think that this is the last attempt of my spiritual enemies to harrass me; and that I shall overcome them by the sword of the spirit. I am exercising faith, hope, and prayer for my family; as I feel more for them than I do for myself. I know I can do nothing, or bear nothing, except I am supported for the moment; what I shall have to go thro' yet, I must leave to Him who knoweth all things. I would wish to have a spiritual friend to converse with: my Daug.^s and their husbands are tolerable well for their age; but they are not sufficiently enlightened or experienced, to enter minutely into things. I have no soul to converse with but God. I am for the most part entirely alone: my only refuge is prayer; Oh! help if you can by prayer. — I have some satisfaction in writing to xxxx or hearing from him, tho his letters are nothing but one continued scene of distresses of himself or some others. He says he is resolved not to puzzle or perplex himself more about xxxx for he sees they will go on in their own way, and that he cannot mend them. I told him this long ago. Disputes & wrangling arise in various places; the xxx want money to carry on the work as they call it; and the people cannot afford it by the distress of the times. This is so here too; and many of the most sensible see many things which they can not approve. It is the same in your country, for human nature is always the same. —— Give my love to your Hus^d and other friends. —— J. C.

Hackney May 1813

My dear Sister

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter the 7th of May. What delayed it I know not, except the difficulties of the times. We live indeed in perilous times: and I fear they are not yet at an end. Tho' we in England feel the burthen of taxes and other things; yet the misery of the people of most parts of Europe, and horrible slaughter of mankind is beyond our comprehension; and what no pen can describe. The most part of the immense army of the French were destroyed in Russia last winter by the cold and inclemency of the season: yet another immense army is collected again, and they are engaged in fighting again in Germany and Prusia &c The Lord is shaking mightily the nations, to bring them to humiliation, that they may acknowledge him, and submit to his government and laws. In the midst of all this, some good is doing, and many of our great folks, and some of our Royal princes are exerting themselves to diffuse the scriptures throught the world, hoping that it may be a means of enlightening mankind, and of producing the best effects. This is certainly a token for good, and I hope it is preparing to for better times, which I shall not live to see nor perhaps even my grand Dren; However I know that God will perform what he has declared;

Wisdom's brook is always flowing,† And its streams for ever pure
They who drink it shall be growing still more upright, and endure.
Debauchees may talk of tasting Nectar which the poets sing;
But the banquet here is feasting, undefined by human tongue.‡
Let your mind be still expanded, Grasping after sacred love;
Till in heav'n you're safely landed, Meet with me to part no more!

† Prov: 18.4. ‡ 1 Cor: 2.9. London Nov: 12. 1810 —

Many great mercantile houses here have lately failed; and thousands [illegible]ut thro' them. A Jew here the other day put an end to his life; not being able to meet the demands which were coming upon him. He was reckoned one of the richest men in the nation; and used every year to lend to the Government when they proposed a loan. I think another brother of his put an end to his life some years ago. I see more and more that money, or at least the love of it, proves a curse and a snare unto most of those who possess it; as it engrosses their whole thoughts and affections, and perplexes them the more they have of it. I am daily repeating this doctrine in the ears of my family, to make them more content with their lot. They are silent; and I suppose think that I am wrong; as all around are struggling to be rich. —

My dear Sister — Hackney near London

I take another opportunity to let you know that I am still in the body, and thro' the mercy of God am brought to see another year. I am at present chiefly confined to bed (tho' I get little rest or sleep) with my old winter's complaint, a cold, cough, and great oppression on the lungs; which is the effect of attending at our Covenant on the first Sunday in the year, which turned out to be a dreary day of sleet and rain. I rec'd your letter dated in Nov in the end of Decr. I wrote to you sometime before Christmas and I believe about the beginning of Nov: I also wrote to Mrs H--s to your care. — I feel sensibly every moment on her account, tho' I have long since endeavoured to give her and all the rest of my family up to God. It is certain he cannot err, and I have endeavoured to believe, and still to believe that this dark & severe dispensation will some way work together for good in the end. She will learn more experience; tho' she buys it very dear. However, nothing teaches like one's own experience; and when God chastises, he is teaching us. In the midst of judgments he mingles mercies. Oh! how wise, how good, how long-suffering, how ready to forgive: for he knoweth whereof we are made; He remembereth that we are but dust. — I believe I informed you in my last that I was then removing to the place where my daughters live. I had been grieviously tossed about and perplexed for ~~[illegible]~~ two months looking out for a place, and also striving to sell or dispose of the Lease of the house where I had lived. In both these things I found innumerable difficulties which exercised my mind in various ways. At length I got in a most providential manner a very convenient house near where my daughters live in an airy pleasant situation. It seemed as if I had just got into the haven of rest, when in a few days I was cast down again with my present complaint. Thus my whole life has been chequered: for, if a little ease or respite came, it was soon succeeded by some fresh calamity or affliction: and I see all this [illegible] wisdom and mercy of God because we are naturally [illegible]

[illegible]

My dear Sister Hackney ~~Augt 20~~ Octr ~~1~~ 2:d 1812

A few days ago I rec-d yours of the 3d of Augt and embrace the opportunity of writing to you, as a ship is about to sail. It may be long before another opportunity may occur; the whole world is convulsed and out of course. I have occasionally mentioned my views respecting these things, and every day confirms me in what I then thought. There is a supreme Governor of the Universe, and he sees what comes to pass: and tho' he don't approve of the evil, yet he permits the wicked to scourge one another. Indeed those who are, comparatively, inocent, are involved in the calamity of a nation; and it is scarcely possible to avoid this except GOD in some extraordinary way screen them and deliver them. Happy they who can at all times confidently put themselves under his wings, and learn to trust in him, upon proper grounds.—

We know the governors of all nations are but men, and therefore liable to err, even tho' they may be sincere: and it is the duty of every true Christian to pray for kings or governors, that they may in all things be directed by the spirit of GOD.

I am glad that - - - and - - - - has returned safe. I hope the voyage has done him good in various respects. We may learn more and more of ourselves, and of human nature, if we were to live for thousands of years longer. All are very ignorent; and they who know most, know but in part, and that very little. Tho' Ireland is in a most wretched way, in many respects; and this nation is not much better, and indeed all Europe out of order; yet I think America is scourging, and about to be scourged too: because sin has abounded there as well as in other places. In South America, millions of the simple inocent Inhabitants were murdered by the Spaniards for the sake of their gold. That blood has long been crying from the ground: and GOD is now avenging it. Though your States may not have been so guilty: yet there has been a forgetfulness of the mercies of GOD: and, tho' it is strange, yet in all ages when men abound in temporal blessings, they are the more prone to forget GOD. When Jesurun waxed fat, he kicked. The history of the Israelites is only the history of human nature: man is still prone to forget GOD. So that when he chastises a nation, a family, or an individual, he does it for their good; to bring them to recollection, and humiliation before him for the time to come.

The Spirit of the M-- D-- here and in Ireland and in America is the same. They are aiming at a despotic power to rule the people with a high hand; and they can work up the minds of those who are ignorent, and simple hearted to form a majority upon any question; and persuade them to believe that - - - - - are persecuted: tho' it is the very reverse. At the moment I am writing this line I suppose there is a violent contest at - - - - : and we are like to have such a work as we had about 20 years ago. A - - - - has forced himself here lately; tho' the had voted against his coming. He can do them no good, and will only set them to dispute with each other, and their minds will be hurt. I don't go to any of their meetings, I saw and heard too much when the contest was here before. I adopt the words of Dr Young, in the night thoughts, and apply them to myself:—

"Here on a single plank, thrown safe ashore, I hear the murmer of the distant throng, &c."— I am thriving to look towards the land of rest.

I had about a month ago pain and at times various complaints &c.—

I send you a pamphlet containing 2 sermons. I intend them as my last farewell. There was a person brought into liberty when I preached the first 2 years ago. I hope you will pray for us all: and I always remember you all whenever I bend the knee. "Thrice blessed bliss inspiring hope"! Remember me to all friends &c

Miss E. Sint...

My dear Sister — London Decr 9th 181

Tho' I wrote to you lately, yet I shall endeavour to drop a lines as long as I am able; partly to let you know my own State, and partly that of our suffering friends. A few days ago I got a most distressing letter from R--- respecting himself, and the rest. He was scarcely able to write in a way that I could make out. He has a complication of bodily complaints: but the pain and exercises of the mind are beyond the power of description. These arise partly from the consideration of his own family; and partly from that of others &c &c -- W-- is much worse both in body and circumstances. His mental powers I suppose, are wasted to the lowest degree. His body worn with hardship, grief, and infirmities. His family now forced to scatter. &c &c. S. T. gives me in a letter lately rec. from her, an acct of her health and other trying circumstances. That country is in a most distressing way: wretchedness and wickedness prevails in it. But God is scourging and about to scourge the nations. Here it has been gloomy for some time past: many of the greatest mercantile houses have become bankrupt: and this has spread to thousands thro' the country connected with these. A Jew reckoned one of the richest men in the kingdom put an end to his life, when he found himself embarrassed. Many others have done the same. This is a miserable way of getting rid of trouble. England has always been remarkable for this: but it is now so common, that several such things occur almost every week.

I would now attempt to say something about myself. I was pretty tolerable during the Autumn: but in the beginning of Novr I got my old winter's complaint, partly thro' the rain. The phlegm oppresses me more than I can describe. I am thinking I must resign going to the Chapel entirely, as I have long struggled beyond my strength. If I should survive (which is not very likely) I would strive to do a little again in the beginning of April. I must resign all my affairs to God, and myself too; for I can do nothing; and I strive to believe that all things shall work for good in the end. I want to be retired and enjoy some peace, to reflect upon another world. I am seldom out of my room, and read a great deal of something or other; and often write to some friend or other. We feel much for my daughter H--- we seldom hear from her. but I cannot help her. I strive to hope that God will bring light out of this dark dispensation in the end. You will continue to pray for us all. I hope we will meet at last in the haven of repose. —

Farewell! — J. C.

I enclose a paper which I wrote lately to a young girl of 15 years of age whom I had baptized. Her father Josiah Dornford Esqr Magistrate for the County of Kent, was an old Methst: I was intimate with him ever since I came here. He died a few months ago, aged 76. The daughter pressed me much to write something to her by way of advice. I wrote her a long Letter; and lately sent her this enclosed paper. — You may give a copy of it to other young friends as it will suit any young persons.

oct r #2:

To a young Lady, on the death of her father.

Whilst the brave in battle falling, For their country, yield their breath,
Others, for perdition calling, Madly hasten their own death.
Meeting with some tribulation, Or some loss they cannot bear,
Thus they seek annihilation, Think to end their troubles here.
But the Christian, truly glorious, Looks in triumph on the tomb:
He by faith is all victorious, Sees and tastes a life to come.
Tho' a pilgrim and a stranger, Yet he casts his anchor sure;
Stands and braves the greatest danger, Midst the storms of life secure.
Thus my friend, the late Josiah, Calmly waits prepared to die;
Firmly trusts the great Messiah Will receive him in the sky.
To this haven still he tended, Tho' oft toss'd by winds and seas:
Now his conflicts all are ended, Having reached the port of ease.
Whilst the heavenly courts are ringing, Sounding forth Jehovah's name,
There he joins the saints in singing, Basks amidst seraphic flame.
Yet, methink, he still is warning, Anxiously beholding you;
Bids you studiously be learning Something useful, something new.
Hearken to his solemn warning, Urged in accents soft and kind:
Pause and meditate each morning, Fix it deeply on your mind.
"Ester, my beloved daughter, Seek, in youth the love of GOD:
Thirst for streams of living water, And in Christ substantial food.
Whilst the things of time invite you Let them not enthral your heart;
Let sublimer joys delight you, Wisely choose the better part.
"Pity those who still are changing, With the fashions of the day;
And thro' scenes of pleasure ranging, Make themselves an easy prey.
"Idleness is still precarious, But employment, you will find,
Whilst its gust is sweetly various, Tends to give a taste refined.
"Every talent, every station, Granted to the human race,
In this state of short probation, Must be occupied, by grace.
"They, who lounge away their hours, Shall more dull and stupid grow:
And the gift of mental powers, If abused, must end in woe.
Hence arises empty prattle Most disgusting to the fair:
Coxcombs, when they puff and rattle, Burst, like bubbles, into air.
"Or like butterflies in season, Frisk and glisten in the sun;
But, when viewed by sober reason, All their tinsel worth is gone.
"Shun them, then, for tho' they flatter, And profess themselves most kind,
Tho' they laugh and jest and chatter, Still betray a vacant mind.
"But the prudent, seeking treasure, * Deeper dig for precious ore;
Giving and receiving pleasure, Thirsting, panting still for more.
Diving, and exploring science, Here they find increasing joy;
Bid to [illegible] defiance, All their labour never cloy.
Loath and spurn the the mere exterior, However it seems to please:
[illegible] a mind [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible]

My dear Sister   London April [illegible]th 1810.

I recd. yours of 16th Jan: I have struggled on thus far, got gradually a little better since I wrote to you in Feb. at that time I was weak and low, had not been at the Chapel for four Sundays. I now attend as usual at the different Chapels. I was overdone at the Covenant on the 7th of Jan: and besides got a severe cold, which I am always long getting thro' I am perpetually coughing day and night by a great quantity of phlegm in my chest, I believe the preachers and some others had given me up in the middle of Jan? Every additional attack brings the poor frame still lower. Indeed I often wonder at myself, and some others too wonder, tho' they don't see or know the thousand part of what I suffer. Oh! that I may lose all my dross and tin in the furnace, and be made meet for a better country. The winter before and after Christs was with you mild and wet: but very many, I hear, died during that time. That country where our friends are gone back to seems to be very unhealthy. I am sorry they went to it. I am glad that --- has got one of the family settled in a way of doing for herself. When children grow up they are often greater cause of anxiety to the parents than even when they were young. But there is no exemption from trouble, affliction, and pain on this side the grave. We have heard nothing of --- since June last, except what you wrote. This adds to our afflictions. I am striving to hope that these dispensations will some way work for good. certainly God designs that his corrections should be profitable to us, and drive us to seek mercy and happiness from and in him alone. It is said of the Israelites, when in Egypt, he brought down their hearts by labour; that is, by hardships, &c: then they cried unto him, and he delivered them out of their distress. But people should cry unto the Lord, not only in trouble, but at all times: for where else shall we find a place of refuge? I believe our friends in Ireland are, as usual, in a suffering way. I hear sometimes from R. -- and his letters are filled with his own exercises of mind and constant afflictions of body. He suffers and feels much in various ways, both from the people of the world and others. &c &c - The papists are raging in that country, and suffering hardships, and therefore would be ready to join the Enemy if they should land again; for when are desponding, they are ready for any change, as they think they cannot be worse. Here too the common people are suffering much by taxes and every article so dear &c. I am now exceedingly exercised in mind, my family want to get a smaller house, and to part with this &c. I don't like moving for my time: and I have had many a sore trial in moving from place to place. Surely the haven of rest is very desirable to those who have long been tossed upon a boisterous sea. Tell our friends in that back country, that I sympathize with them, and endeavour to pray for them twice a day in my feeble way. There is a port of ease where I hope we shall all meet at last. Some improper persons go from here to your country, under the character of Meth= or religious persons. It is needful to be guarded against such. —— Some here, as with you go on boasting of the increase of numbers, and are building innumerable Chapels. Many of the old folks don't like many things which they see and hear of in the present day: but they are disregarded, and as they are dying off and another generation rising up, so the customs of religious communities are changing, as well as those of nations. The world seems convulsed and out of course. No sign of War being at an end B-- has got the most of Europe under his power, except our Nation &c &c God is fulfilling his word: and instruments are raised up from time to time to execute his will. Many people in this country are discontented: and it looks as if we should have some troubles. Within this last week there have [illegible] disturbances here by the mob breaking the windows of houses of some [illegible] folks. A member of Parliament (Sir Francis Burdett) is confined

[illegible] Lord thou seest me and thou knowest me, keep my [illegible]

prisoner to the Tower, by the Parl[t] on acc[t] of a pamphlet which he [...]
think he has not experience enough, and wants wisdom to conduct him
with calmness, tho he is cried up populace. The mob are bad judges; and
take a bad method to get their ends accomplished. There was dreadful wo[rk]
here in June 1780. The old people who saw it speak of it with horror. —
My friend Dr Adam Clarke is now printing large Notes on the
Bible. He sends me sheet by sheet from the press, that I may read it an[d]
give him my corrections or opinion, before it is worked off. — — Bibl[es]
are now printing more than ever: so that I think in fifty years they [will]
be as plenty as the stones in the street. Thomas Paine, by writing
against it, has excited thousands to print the more; and it is printing in [a]
variety of languages. GOD will always support his own Truth. —
Farewell — Yours — J. L.

My dear Sister London Sep[r] 14 1810

The Sailor brought your letter to my house; I happened
to be at home. He never called again &c. — — I went to the sea side at [a]
place called Margate in the beginning of Aug[t] and staid till the 1st of Sep[r]
I got some benefit there by the air; but lost it all on the day after I came; [it]
being Sunday and very hot. I had double labour both in the morning a[nd]
evening, which brought on a complaint, and other things which had n[early]
[fairl]y carried me off in one day. I am a little better; but cannot expect to [re-]
cover what I lost by it. I wonder at myself that I continue to go abo[ut a]
little, tho' there is scarcely many ounces of flesh on my bones.
(After speaking of things of a temporal nature he adds) It is very difficult [to]
impress the minds of youth at this day with a proper sense of those thin[gs]
[or] to make them sensible of what their older friends have suffered in their
voyage thro' life. It has been a rough passage with some; but I believe it [is a]
ll for good; and we shall get to the port at last. As to myself, I feel grateful
for every dispensation of Providence; because I know he intended all for
good; and I dare not distrust him for a moment. But those we leave behin[d]
must learn for themselves, for nothing but experience teaches effectually.
The Conference was held here lately; but I was away at the sea. It would
not answer me to attend it, either for my body or my mind. I see hu=
man nature is the same with you as with us. There will be bicker-
ings and contentions among the religious world, perhaps for a long
time yet to come. A great change must take place before they agree.
I have written pretty plainly to ++++, desireing him to search for himself
and not to be staggered at the differences among professors. I have said
something about ++++ He has been hunting about for rich wives, having
buried two already, and disgusted most people in England who knew him.
I heard nothing of C — being ordained here; perhaps it is not true: but
men are seeking to be independent every where if they can. Those local
preachers where ++++ is, may have cause of complaint of the insolence of
the Itinerants: yet perhaps they themselves may be in danger on the other
hand, of seeking too much power. This is common to all in every clime; es-
pecially those that start newly up. — — —

He mentions a Mr. S-- of the family of [illegible], who was awakened and converted some years ago. He has preached among the Meth: but has lately joined that party called Kilhamites. These differ in nothing from the rest, only they let the people have a share in their Ch: govern[t] or management of temporal affairs. As this man came up lately from the North to B--t on a visit. ++++ wrote from Dublin to the people at B-- not to let him enter their doors. When old experienced Meth. give hints or compare old with the modern state of religion among them the preachers cannot bear it. They say that religion is increasing, as well as they number of the people. Perhaps it is so. We must make allowance for circumstances and the change of times. — Remember me to all friends when you write to those in the Western country. Tho' I am much better at present; yet I have the long winter before me. Continue to pray for us all. Farewell! —

J. C.

My dear Sister Jan: 24th -- 1810.

I rec.d yours of the 8th of Nov.r The 1st of Jan: I was tolerably well and for some time before: but have been in an afflicted way since the 7th of Jan: when we held our Covenant. I was overcome with fatigue and got a severe cold imediately after. As they held the Covenant at some other Chapels, it lessened the number with me. I had about 630 communicants, and no Clergyman to assist me. I desired a preacher to give out a verse of a hymn some times, when I sat down to rest. I have been thus alone for three years, and every time I think it will be my last. My body is reduced amazingly. The cough is violent and incessant, and the quantity of phlegm is wonderful so as almost to choke me, especially at night. We are suffering much here by taxes, and every necessary of life is almost three times as much as when I came here. We have cause to be thankful that we have not seen blood in our streets, as it is in other nations. The world is more and more convulsed, and like to be. I think all parties are sick of the war; and yet they know not how to bring about a peace. And yet I think, if peace were estab'ished the people in general would not grow better, but would sin audaciously against God; for they do so, even now in the midst of calamities. The higher classes are commiting adultry every day, fighting duels, or cuting their own throats. The : and the very lowest are as wicked and ignorant as ever. The only good there is, is among the middle sort and the industrious; and these bear the whole burden of the nation. I am not surprized at any thing I see or hear in the world; I saw it long ago, and I know it will increase, untill a remarkable change change is wrought in the hearts of the people. But Ireland is far worse. I fear it will be one scene of blood soon; for the people are driven to desperation thro' poverty, and will plunder and murder one another. The beggars are encreased to an alarming height. For two years the North has been ruined for want of flaxseed, the women have no employ, & the weavers, in great numbers enlisting and leaving their familis. R-- is in a deplorable state, ~~time~~ body & his mind distressed beyond measure; he knows not where to fly to and has such forbodings about his children, whom he must soon leave. J. & W. T. called on him lately one after the other; both in want. He strove to help them a little. He thinks they have both experimental religion, and he has nothing to lay to their charge, as neglect. They both seemed very grateful. As to our B.. T. I know nothing about him at present, but suppose it is as usual. I orderd R. to give a trifle as from me to such as he saw needed it most ++++ As to my D. H. I suppose she is suffering as much as any of those in Ireland. I can do nothing but resign her to God. I advise +++ to beware of speculations, and running into expence about uncertainties. The H-- s are fond of speculations. This has ruined many. The people here who purchased from H--, are all ruined: one of their wives died of a broken heart, and two or three ~~others~~ more are little better. There seems a curse upon every thing he undertakes. He is not I hope, out of the reach of mercy but afflictions and punishments do not always drive people to God. Man is a strange creature.

Dr — is still grieved about — — — He says he strives to refrain speaking [to] them, for they cannot bear reproof; and says they are very ignorant, religion he thinks is at a low ebb, or very superficial. The Lord blesses his own labours in the little Society there. He is as in Sodom, surrounded by great folks, who are debauched to a proverb. &c. Even the lower class of people are more wicked ten times than when you left that country. It is no wonder if GOD sends down judgments upon the land. I wrote the foregoing about a week ago: and am now so weak, that I can scarcely stand upright, or sit up. I have great weakness and pain in the small of my back. I spit more than half pint of phlegm in the 24 hours, and I have great cough for five or six minutes at a time which almost stops my breath. I sit up in the bed some time in the middle of the night as my lungs are so oppressed when I lie. I get some sleep towards morning. Every one of my family with coughs. They do not feel enough about my removal, as I have so often been brought to the brink of the grave, they are inclined still to hope: but I am older and worn more every day. The Rev: E. D. Smyth, between whom and me many affectionate letters have passed for thirty years. Lately wrote to me thinking me a kind of prodigy in nature as he and many others thought I was just dying in 1786. I had a little before sent him the Piece addressed to A. C. telling him that I mean the latter part of it for all my particular friends and him among the rest. He thinks it one of the best things I have written, tho' at an advanced age. Looking over old papers, in order to destroy them, oft I met a parcel relative to H— s affairs, partly when he was away in A. and also after he returned. It is not in the power of language to describe what anguish of mind I went thro', as so many things were involved, which no one could foresee. I have met with a letter of Mrs H— to her mother, just when she was going on the board at Liverpool. with a gloomy prospect and the great ocean before her. But Oh! what has the poor thing gone thro since that time! This letter has made my heart bleed afresh, with a flood of tears. But what does all this avail! —

It is natural for us to be anxious for our children, both in a temporal and spiritual sense. yet here also our will must be brought into perfect submission to the will of God. Our parents might have great fears concerning us all. — yet we have been brought thro' thus far, tho' we have had our difficulties; and our Children are not in a worse situation than we were, at least some of them. I am tracing back the events of my past life. My path has been rough, and my cup bitter almost all the way. Even at school and in the College, I met with many things that were grievous to flesh and blood. But God knew that this was the best for me; to train me to endure hardness, and I see it now more clearly myself. — Feb: 5th 1810 I have not been to read the prayers at our largest Chapel for three Sabbaths past: but ventured there yesterday first to administer the Sacrament — I had near 300 communicants. I was not able to go to another smaller one in the evening; but returned home, and had much pain in my head. How long I may struggle on this way; it is hard to tell. — I cannot say that I have that triumphant joy, that some profess. but I have in general peace within and resignation to the divine will. There is only one foundation to rely upon, the attoning blood; and there I do rest all my hopes.

This is my birth day: and it naturally calls upon me once more to reflect on the years that are gone, and to bless and adore Him who has bestowed innumerable mercies upon me for Seventy one years. Surly I have been long enough in this vale of tears; indeed much longer than I myself or my friends ever expected. I am looking into a book Ch— recommended and sent me. Molinos, Spiritual Guide. — He was one of those called mystics. I cannot say that I understand him much tho' I believe he had much internal experience, and was imprisoned in the Inquisition by the Romish Church; where he continued for 20 years, living upon bread and water and died at Naples upwards of a century ago. He had thousands of followers, and was much opposed in that day.

Farewell; till we meet in the haven of eternal peace. Remember me in the tenderest manner to all my relations. GOD bless you all! — J.

[…]ct: It is probable ⸺ has much to suffer still; and perhaps she [may be] called to pass thro' something of what her father has gone thro'. Many [a bi]tter draught he has tasted, but in tracing back his whole life, he sees it was [all] contrived by Him who cannot err, and who intended to wean him from this [tra]nsitory scene. He sees every day how dangerous a state of prosperity is. Few [c]an bear it. And there is some who if they had been in prosperity, would [ru]n faster to ruin. I wrote to ⸺ some time ago, warning him of this dan[ger]. He seemed thankful in his reply for my friendly care of him in this respect. [I] thought when his wife was taken, perhaps it was from the evil to come in get[tin]g too much into the world. I was reading over her letters lately; and shed ma[n]y tears. It is very affecting to read the letters of a departed friend, and as [it] were to converse with the dead. I also have a few of Mr. B⸺s letters in his last [i]llness, and some of his wife after his death. How strange that I have sur[viv]ed him more than 10 years. His being taken away was a very great [los]s to me; as we wrote much to each other to advise and strengthen one [a]nother in very trying times. But Oh! what have I seen and known since his death. I was taken ill in the midle of July last, and mostly confined to my bed for more than a month. Since the dry weather in Sepr. has revived me a little. They have got another to succeed me in reading the prayers; but I go to most of the Chapels to administer the Sacr⸺t in rotation. I preach[ed] at one of them last Sund. and some said that I spoke louder than I did some years ago. Indeed, I think every time will be my last, and perhaps [th]at made me exert a little. I desire to give the whole glory to God for all his mercies. I spoke last Sund. from John 4.10. I dwelt much upon the mercies [o]f God. They are a free gift, and included in and derived from Christ, who was the Gift of God to a lost race. Salvation thro' Him is a free gift. ——

[O]ur Sister T⸺ spent some time at ⸺ and returned home. She was very weak, and had a violent cough: I have not heard whether she is alive; [b]ut it was not probable that she would get thro' the winter. R⸺ gives a good account [of her] spiritual attainments; as she seemed to be nearly ready for a better world. Oh! [m]ay we all be found watching, and preparing for a ~~better world~~ a change. And [w]hat are all our sufferings here; if we shall be made meet for the heavenly coun[tr]y. I trust I have profited by what I have gone thro'; for the last five months I have [be]en in the constant spirit of prayer; tho' there is no outward appearance, nor [d]o I feel that great joy which some have spoken of. Yesterday I was in company [w]ith many of our preachers at the funeral of the wife of one of them. One of them [o]bserved that in meeting the classes lately, he found that most of the people tho' they [p]rofessed faith and peace had not joy as used to be the case in early Methodism. [S]ome conversation was held upon the subject. It is true that Christianity is always the same; but it has been a thought with me for some years, whether some people have not [p]ut joy or what they call the comforts of religion, for religion itself. Yet I wish to be cau[tio]ns in judging on the subject, as it is not an easy matter to judge even one's own [f]eelings. We know that constitutions differ very much; and some are of a warm im[a]gination. Besides in the sincerest and most upright walkers, the state of their bo[d]ies may be different at times; which may affect the mind, as our bodies and spirits [a]re so wonderfully blended together. I do not therefore make joy or extacy a crite[rio]n of religion. When I had that extraordinary sensation at Chris. 1780, I was [ov]erwhelmed in a way I cannot describe, and I could scarcely speak any; yet I [don']t recollect that I had rapturous joy. On these matters, we must be very modest, [we] must know but in part, or very little at all while the soul is clogged with a body of [clay]. Lord thou seest me and thou knowest me, help my infirmities.

London Sepr; 14th 18[illegible]

My dear sister

I have returned home after an excursion to the sea where I stayed upwards of three weeks. The air and exercise was of use to me. My two daughters were with me; and were much the better for it, and also had pleasure in seeing different places and people. [illegible] preached twice every sabbath, and twice on the week nights; as most of the preachers were away at Confe. We spent a fortnight at Southampton, which is a pleasant clean town on the south coast; then went over to the Isle of Whight, which is pleasant and the air excellent. This Island is twelve miles broad, and about 22 in length. The Farmers live well and snug in the valleys. There are very high hills in it: one large town near the centre, and some smaller ones. When at Southampton I went to see the ruins of an Abbey about three miles off near the shore, buried amidst woods, and there are many large trees now growing within the walls. I was always fond of viewing old buildings. It has a natural tendency to draw the mind to reflection, and solemn thoughts. I was led to contrast the state of the monks and popery in ancient times with what it is now. I wrote some lines upon the occasion, a copy of which I send enclosed. They are very simple, and nothing remarkable in them; but however trifling anything I write may be, it will not be altogether unacceptable to you, especially when it is considered as written near the end of my 71st year. I saw this Abbey before about five years ago, but I wished to shew it to my daughters. There is an Elegy on it by another Author: and an account of the place around it. A short time before we were there, while a party were in the Abbey, one of them found a paper in a corner, lately left there, and I suppose written by a Quaker. The words are these — "Reader! If thy heart is in unison with this quiet scene, and thou feelest the self—approving glow in thy gentle bosom, God speed thee in the enjoyment of a pleasant hour at Netley. —— But if the jarring throbs of guilt assault thy soul, or ought of impure deed or thought shall haunt thy sicken'd fancy, depart! and leave this sacred spot to virtue and the better few."

The following Lines also in the printed account were very pleasing and suitable to me at my age

"Here let times creeping winter shed "His hoary snow around my head
"And while I feel, by fast degrees, My sluggard blood wax chill & freeze,
"Let thought unveil to my fix'd eye The scenes of deep eternity;
"Till, life dissolving at the view, "I wake and find the vision true." —

There is dreadful slaughter at this time in Spain and Portugal; and I think there will be more and more. The Friars there are very numerous; and as they see their craft in danger, they stir up the people to fight, and they fight themselves. I see the hand of God in all that is coming to pass in the nations. He is shaking them as he long since promised. We are suffering in various ways &c. We have lost many soldiers in Spain; and lately on the coast of Holland, where we sent an Expedition. God makes use of a man as a rod, who has a work to perform, and a time alotted to do it. Then he will be removed; but God can raise up another and another.

Ireland is more and more miserable. Every person that I meet, who has been there lately, gives this account; and what the end will be, God only knows. The people are driven to desperation. The papists would rise but are kept in awe by the army. Ch--- is groaning being burdened on many accounts, and knows not what to do, or where to fly. He is still grievously exercised about the cause of religion, and those who ought to promote it, but they are ignorant and will not be reproved.

care upon Him who has hitherto brought me through; and who has never [fa]iled them who trust in him. All the Stewards and Trustees in every part [of] the Town are my friends, and most of the people. I believe they will still help [to] support me; tho' I made no condition: only I will still do a little, if I am a[n]y way able. —— I have for months been particularly led to reflect every [mor]ning on the mercies of GOD extended to me; tho' deeply convinced that I am the most unworthy of them of all the human race. I have been tracing back [al]l the events of my whole life: and clearly see that all the crosses, disappointments, afflictions, trials, bitter draughts, &c &c were permitted by a wise Providence, [th]at they might work together for my good. I have eaten bitter herbs all the way [th]ro' the wilderness. I have been supported chiefly by charity all my life. [A]t School, in the college, and also here for my salary would by no means [illegible]. It would be tedious to mention ten thousand things: but they were all necessary to break my will, which is the same as of others; and which must some way or other, or in at last be brought into subjection to the will of GOD. It is natural for us to avoid the cross. But my merciful and indulgent Father was pleased to intermix many mercies among all these things. I see this more & more clearly, and how the disappointments were mercies. I have made many resignations, with a temporal loss. I resigned my place in the School of Cavan: I resigned the Curacy of Kilmore to Thos. Cradock, when the Bishop desired it. I had then nothing at all to depend upon in the world. After some months I went to the County Leitrim: staid three years; then resigned my place of Tutor, and went to Swanlingbar. I might have got Kilmore again if I had applied in time, but Mr. Fox was before me, and I had to take his place in Kinawly; which was a most wretched country. There I struggled thro' hardships of various kinds for upwards of thirteen years. Then I resigned the curacy and came here; and I have gone thro' here what no language can describe. I resigned my place of Corrector of the press in 1792 at a loss of 60 £ a annum. And I have now resigned my all, with a reliance on Him who has hitherto supported me. Oh! that I could tell all mankind of his goodness; and encourage all to put their whole trust in him. But they must still exert themselves, both in a temporal and in a spiritual sense. For there are some that talk in a foolish and enthusiastical way. The Bishop of Kilmore was an enemy to real religion; and I would have been in a miserable way there. It was well that I left it when I did. I see many other disappointments were the mercies of an unseen hand.

I'm glad —— has got the Books: they will afford him much information, and will tend to expand the mind; they are all useful books. I think GOD is working upon his mind: and I don't wonder that he should reason and have doubts, when he sees and considers the world around, and more so when he considers the religious or professing world. GOD by his Spirit must give true simplicity to see or receive the Gospel Plan. Do you continue to pray on: and acknowledge that it is GOD alone who can effect the work or truly enlighten the mind. GOD often lets religious parents feel their inability in this case; that they may cry the more earnestly in behalf of themselves and their children. It has pleased GOD to give me much bitterness in my cup, as before observed: and just in the end to give me a little glimpse of comfort in the prospect that my children will be provided for. But I am not elated upon this occasion: as I have seen so much of the world and its nothingness, it is very probable these, tho' at present in a pleasing prospect, may have their crosses & disappointments as I have had. How[illegible] with [illegible] at present.——

My dear Sister

London April 12

I wrote to you, I think about six weeks ago; and as I find a
is about to sail now, I just write you a few lines to let you know that I am st
the body. March being dry I was much better; but on the 7th Inst: there w
some cold rain, which brought on a hoarseness and sore throat; and I had much la
during the day, having 350 Communicants at our great Chapel in the morni
and about 130 more at another Chapel in the evening. I mean to do a little as lon
I can, at least till Conference, when they expect a Mr. Vesey to come. I thin
some of the ..... are not much inclined to let him come in the characte
of a Clergyman, or something different from themselves; for they are je
-lous of each other. This will always be the case so long as any thing of the ca
mind remains among any sect or party. There is something like persecution
likely to rise up in the higher powers against Meth^s. There have been riot or ill
treatment offered to some of our people in different parts, and trials in the count
A nobleman is talking about bringing in a Bill into Parl^t with an intent (I
think) to restrain Itenerancy, or to compell each minister to attend to and reside
~~at one~~ one Congregation. Our preachers are dividing the circuits more & more a
they are so small, that they will be less than some parishes. Indeed I thought for
years that the great number of Chapels we were building would provoke the hi
er powers, or Bishops to use some means to prevent the progress of Meth^s; and o
folks seem to be a little self-confident; so that GOD may permit them to be hum
bled for a time. Yesterday I was looking over a Book of extracts which I collected ma
years ago from various Authors. I met the following in it "The bush burn
ing and not consumed is an emblem of the Church, kept alive, yet still in the
flames. Particular churches, like the sun, have usual periods, their hei
flourishing, and gradual decay: yet this never made void the promise
GOD to the Church universal. Continuance and preservation are pe
culiar to her alone; and can be said of no other interest or party beneath
the sun: for there was no kingdom or empire so firmly rooted, no society
well governed by laws, but time prevailed over it at last. The Church h
outlived all the great revolutions which so often have changed the very face o
world. We have seen the Church's enemies raised to a strange height, al
vantages favouring them untill their plot was just ripe; when lo a
that very instant, something unexpected hath fallen out which turned
their former success to their further ruin and disappointment.—
A sword must pierce the Church's heart that the thoughts of many m
be discovered. A time of persecution must help to cure the divisions a
mong the godly; and bring them together in the furnace which prosper
could not do; yea, the very undoing of the Church hath been God's bless
way, to keep her from being undone".
Let me know what you can learn of our friends in the back country.
We are far scattered from each other. Oh! may we so live to GOD,
that we may all meet at last! Oh! that we all may be made partakers of
a new and divine nature, that we may partake of the felicity of the saints
in light.— Farewell. with love to all — — — J. C

My Dear Sister   Hackney Aug: 2d 1818

I have rec.d your Letter of July 1st. I was long anxious to hear from you or some others; as we have got no acc.t from ... since 24th of March just when his wife was in a dangerous way &c &c you need not be concerned about opening my Letter to ... I did not know, when I wrote it, whether he would receive it, or be alive: but I could not refrain from expressing the feelings of my mind, &c &c His principles and feelings are directly opposite to what mine were even when I had no religion. I did not expect them to act from religious principles; but at least from honourable principles. I am extremely grieved that you or other friends should have so much trouble with those that are gone out. I would have some to suffer in a measure in the beginning: for when young folks are supplied readily, they do not know the value of money; and what is worse, they are sometimes ungreatful. After all they may do well yet, if they will learn Economy. If they reflect and learn experience from what they have gone through, it will be well. Without reflection, and looking back no one will do any good. We should look back at the mercies of GOD, what dangers we have escaped and how long he hath borne with us and provided for us. He would not let me have much at once, that I might learn to hang upon upon, and trust in him: but in a time of need, he has sent me help when I did not expect it. Some friends are still kind to me; and the Stewards still continue my salary, tho' I can do very little: and the people in general seem still favourable to me. This is some consolation. I lately preached at the great Chapel, and since at a smaller one; while the preachers were away at the Conference in the North. Tho' I was tottering on my knees: yet when in the pulpit, I felt nothing as I was engaged with my subject: but I got home with difficulty and was very weak for a week after. I had not preached at that Chapel for six years, and most probably never will again. The people wonder at me, and I wonder at myself: they will hardly believe when I tell them I am far advanced in my 80th year. It is all the mercy of a long-suffering GOD. Oh! that he may take away all my dross, and qualify me to appear in his presence amidst the glorified throng! — Farewell yours &c J— C.

My dear Sister   Oct.r 20th 1818

I wrote to you in the end of Aug.t the same day when I rec.d yours of the 1st of July. I just attempt to scribble some thing, tho' I scarcely know what, and am so weak that my hand and all my whole frame is shaking to a speedy dissolution. Words can give you no Ideas of my state. I have suffered much for two months past, I scarcely get any sleep or rest: my cough is violent and constant and I am oppressed with such a quantity of phlegm as I cannot describe. I endeavour to walk out about an hour in the middle of the day, and return to my bed-room, but can scarcely get up stairs. — Finding all these things increase, I strive to write this as my last. — We are waiting anxiously every hour to hear something more from my ... and the rest of those who have gone over. We have had no letter from ... since that one he wrote to his sister in March. As the summer

me to forget him: Paul had a thorn given him lest he should be lifted up when his ministry was blessed. It is no matter what it was, he prayed to be rid of it: but God thought otherwise; yet gave him grace to bear it. All shall have something, be it what it may, to exercise them thus; and teach them that they must every moment be upheld or they will most certainly fall. — In extracting from my Letters, I only meant that you should take out such things as might be of use to our own relations at a future day (for I would not have any published.) I would wish to do it in such a way as to prompt the reader, not to prejudice him against religion; but to guard him against being too simple, or imposed on by crafty men. Some improper characters have in every age mingled themselves with professors and have done much harm: yet let not the reader be stumbled at this, but rather let him be confirmed in the truth of the Bible in which we are forewarned that such things would be: and the tares were permitted to remain among the wheat for a time. We acknowledge that there have been faults, and will be some time longer. The Bible is impartial in this respect, as it mentions faults of some who were in general good men. I think many things, relating to our family trials, if properly understood, might be of most use, to let our friends know something of what we have passed thro' that they may be prepared to expect similar ones, and learn to look to God for wisdom and grace in their day. If I had an opportunity I would send ---- a book published some years ago, by J. Bicheno, Minister, concerning the prophecies of the restoration of the Jews, and the calamities of present times, he will find much information. Tho I have but lately read this book; my views in many respects have been nearly the same for years past. — All the rest of my family are pretty well and join in love to you and all friends. I renew my cold almost every two or three days. — Farewell J. C.

My dear Sister Feb 7 1811

I take up my pen once more to let you know that I have not yet passed over Jordan. I have seen another Birth-Day. I think I wrote to you this time last year upon a similar occation. From various circumstances I suppose your thoughts have been for some time lately exercised, whether I was or was not departed into the invisible world? I am thro' the mercy of a long-suffering God, kept here a little longer, contrary to the expectation of myself and many others. I informed you before this that I had caught my old winter's complaint early in Novr thro' the rains and damp weather. I found great difficulty in reading the prayers by a perpetual cough. Therefore I resigned on Christmass day, after assisting at the Sacrament with D^r ---. I have kept within since that time, till on the 3^d Inst: I went again to administer the Sacra^t. I shall endeavour, so to do on the first Sun^day of every month till Conf. The Trustees have applied to a Mr Vasey to come in my place. He cannot fully determine till Conf: as he is traveling in a Circuit. He was over in America. He and Mr Whatcoat went with Dr Coke the first time. After some time he got ordained by an American Bishop. He returned to England and has been travelling among us. The Trustees can not get any other, as the Clergy are more averse than ever to come among us. And the Bishops and higher Clergy are alarmed against the Dissenters and Methodists becoming so numerous. My Bro^r Ch-- advised me to resign and thought the time was come before my natural faculties should fail more. As to temporal matters I was enabled to save

My Dear Sister   May 28th 1818

I have recd yours of the 29th of March. Mr H— had got one a few days before from J— he mentioned that his wife was in a dangerous way; he was in distress lest he should lose her. He will be in a deplorable way. Ah! the some people will not, or cannot reflect or look before them; and even when others advise them they will not take advice; but follow their own will, and so fall into misfortunes. If we all get to the haven of rest at last it will be a sweet rest. Our sister F— has got there safe. R— just wrote on the back of his Letter— "Sister Tosh has got over Jordan, safe safe, safe: praise the Lord." — Such numbers are coming from all countries; that the distress will be very great in your States; at least for some time untill they get some employment. And I am looking forward to future times; and thinking what they will be; that is, their posterity, if they become prosperous and at ease: just as it was with the Israelites: they were oppressed in Egypt. they suffered in the wilderness: they got at last into a good land, and soon forgot God: & went after the gods of the heathen; provoked the most High and were punished to the present day. This is just the history of human nature in every age: and they are set forth as a warning to succeeding generations. I'm sure if some I'm acquainted with were in a prosperous way, they would be ten fold worse than they are now: perhaps this calamity will do them some good; if they will begin to reflect, or think a little. I have often quoted those words of the propht— "It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth." We must strive to pray for them and commit them to the G. D. Your son has scraped some property together; yet let him not be too secure: it may be scattered yet or some misfortune may befall him; if he does not turn unto the Lord, and seek mercy at his hands, just as others.

Perhaps you may get to see the long Letter which I wrote to him lately; it is as with my last breath. I can write no more. I am constantly writing to some one or other. I have written quires of paper within these last six months; many persons have requested copies of some of my little things, to keep as a memorial of me.——

I am worn down with various things: and whilst I write this, I have a great pain in my loins; so that I can scarcely stand. I had it for some months above a year ago. I preached twice in April. & am set down four or five times more during the summer, if I be able: on the 9th of Augt at the great Chapel in the City road. My legs and ancles are worst swelled at that season thro' the heat; so that I have doubts if I shall be able. If you get this before that time, be engaged in prayer early that day for me that I may be strengthened. It is six years since I preached there, that Sermon which is last printed which I sent you. Some disagreeable things are coming out every day, among Meth— as well as other people. I just hear that a Son of our Assistant Preacher at the City-road is committed to jail for forgery; and I suppose will be hanged. A Son of a Calvinist Minister was hanged for the same crime some months ago. It is o[illegible]

common here tho' they seldom escape being hanged. The young people of this day get into acquaintance, and corrupt each other: Spend money, and go into some scheme to procure more. There is scarce a day but some dreadful accounts are in the papers, of suicide, murder, robbery, swindling &c &c. There is the second generation who I have my fears and trouble with knows what to do with them. The eldest girl is 16 years old, has been with one of her Aunts; they can make nothing of her, tho' she has met in Class and attended the Sunday School to teach for a year past. The boy is 14 years, we want to get him into some business: but knows not where or how to get it: and when they do become apprentices, they are in danger, and their masters are greatly tried and are unwilling to take any. So you see what the parents have to suffer and to bear in various ways. Oh! what need of looking to Him who alone can support! — well, let us pray on, and exercise faith.

The pain in the small of my back is very bad, since I wrote the foregoing. I have buried mostly all my old acquaintance here. I am to bury one in a few days: a genteel woman, very amiable in her manners and temper: but when I saw her last Autumn where she lives five miles out of town, She was in great doubts, saying she had not been faithful: I have not heard since, or how she felt at the last: but I have hopes in her death. She bore 17 children, many of whom and her husband I buried. He died of an apoplexy in one of our Chapels, when at prayer. —

I am not bigoted in regard to the Established Church of England; but I know her Doctrines are sound and Scriptural. I let others think for themselves. But people may hold sound doctrines; and yet not practice them, or live according to the mind of Christ. — Let all parties attend to this. A little Tract of mine is just printed, on the manner of reading the prayers and service in the Church. The prayers are excellent: but the <u>manner</u> of reading them is often very disgusting, and therefore not profitable to the people, who do not see where the fault lies. I offered this Tract to our preachers here two years ago, if they would print it; some approved; but others like those with you, do not like the prayers. I then gave to a printer. Many prayers that are called <u>extempore</u>, are as cold and formal as if they were printed. There must be the <u>Spirit</u> of prayer, and a feeling sense of our wants expressed in all our addresses to Him, who is both able and willing to hearken and to assist. —— If ~~men~~ will not think and reflect beforehand, they will always go wrong; especially if they do not apply to the wise Counsellor every moment and every day. He must and will suffer, and no one can help him more than they have done. All people are hard put to here, to get through any way; as they are burdened with taxes and other things. The number of poor in the work-houses is incredible, besides numbers begging in the streets. I pay near eight pounds to the poor. My Rent and Taxes are more than sixty pounds, besides some repairs every year. My standing Salary is only £100, so that I have only 40 £ for food raiment &c. But He that has brought me through thus far I have no doubt, will provide for all those who wholly trust in Him. — Oh! that I could praise Him, and love Him, as I ought!

J. C.

-ertated. This has alarmed and set the others in array. A meeting was held the first of april, 50 or 60 Delegates with + + + came from different parts, and carried things with violence against th— and his friends, and passed a censure on their proceeding Mr A... the C— — was at their head and went then to hold another the meeting at Portadown in the North. From thence he wrote to th— — condemning him and his other friends, he expected to answer it. About the middle of March J. S. had a dream, the substances of it is as follows. — He dreamed or had a vision, walking on the high road, saw a field near it, prepared for seed: some part of it was sown with precious seed of some kind, but not harrowed in. He saw a great number of black crows intent in devouring this seed. He went into a house and got a gun which was loaded to fire at them. He went into a green field adjoining, to get round at them: in a corner of this field he saw a parcel of them picking some kind of creature almost to a Skeleton. He came near them and snapt his gun at them, but only a part of the priming burned and the gun did not go off: but it frighted them away, and when he came to the creature, he found to be + + + +. On this he awoke in terror, and ran immediately to relate it to T— — They could easily interpret the dream, and it has since come to pass — R— — says he is not afraid of Men or Devils. The war is almost begun: for there will be printing on both sides, and set the whole kingdom in a flame. I have advised them to be as calm as they can. — R— and his friends in returning from C— — were rejoicing in spirit, tho the majority was against them, they have got some more friends, they think some good will arise out of it at a future day. If it be agreeable to the will of God, he can raise up friends to defend his own truth. But we know that every body of people is liable to degenerate, and to have disputes and bickerings among themselves in all ages. ——— T— — seems to have some convictions on his mind, with respect to the truth: and as I said before, will be better confirmed in the end, after he has had his doubts satisfied. But it is no wonder that many become more confirmed in Infidelity when they hear of these disputes among professors of Christianity. I hope you correspond with the friends in the back country, and encourage each other to fight and wrestle on till the end: for we shall have greater conflicts to pass thro' than we have yet experienced. Think of R— — what he must feel, having borne the heat of the day, and supported men for 34 years, who are now his enemies. But this is no new thing, it was so, and will be so for some time longer. I give you this little extract that you may help by your prayers Oh! what has God done for us all! I see more than ever that all is mercy and free grace. You may tell all your friends, how good it is to trust in a faithful God, and rely upon his promises. Oh may we all give up ourselves wholly and all we have into the hands of Him who will do what is best.

Farewell! ——— J. C.

I hope the Jaunt will be of use to + + + Augt — 1812

and that He will now learn to be content; and prepare for a better world. We are long learning a little wisdom; and at best the wisest know but in part. It is most puzzling to consider the conduct of the professing world, they can talk well, and when a matter is brought home to themselves, or they are reproved, they ~~soon~~ find words to explain it away. What our Lord advised his followers, to hear and practice what the Scribes said but not to act according to their works; may be applied still. I see faults among all, I think the doctrines among our people are most agreeable to the Bible: but there is too much subtlety and cunning craft [illegible]

Feb: 16th 1818

My Dear Sister

I recd yours of Decr in due time, and one from G. L. of the same date. I wrote to you soon after Christs and mentioned that my son and family had sailed from Liverpool on Christs day bound for New york. We have heard nothing since, nor do we expect it till April. What I suffered in mind for six months past cannot be described: not so much at parting with them, as other things. If he learns experience by what he has suffered, it will be well. My pain of mind has of late somewhat abated, tho' I feel much when I hear the winds blowing loud. I agree with you in all you say: and our only way is to commit all our care to Him that careth for us. B-- got the Letter from G- and you. He will have a hard task when parting with his son, who is talking of setting of in March. The Ge--Ch- is in a deplorable way in many other respects: so of his lands waste, and the tenants do not pay for the rest. He has lost £50 during the last two years. The harvest has been good: but the people are wretched. The fever subsided for a time, but had somewhat revived. There di- not many die as they took precaution and used means sent them out of the towns. The chief Papists in and about Cavan called a meeting of themselves to enquire into the conduct of some of their priests, and to choose an Assistant to the Bishop who is old. The priest of Cavan keeps a woman in his house: the Bishop is his uncle and in some degree skreens him. They have published a paper, which I have not yet seen. It seems that the people of all Sects are getting their eyes opened a little: but it will some time before it is done effectually. The higher class of papists have had several meetings in Dublin, and are offended with the Pope, who treated their Delegate whom they sent to him badly, and turned him abruptly out of Rome. The Methds are also divided: the Clones Conf: is increasing in numbers and held a meeting in Jany forming a new Constitution. Some Delegates from Dublin and other parts of the kingdom went to Clones, all respectable men. But still I see they will have difficulty in bringing about a regular change. What you say is exactly true: Meths are nearer to popery than any other people. I saw this many years ago. Arbitrary power prevails here as well as elsewhere, money is the whole cry and the people burdened: and a great debt on most all Chapels. To these that can see, these things are grevious. Bror B= has great exercises of mind in various ways. Would wish he had a sympathizing friend to relate his case unto. But ah! tho we may sympathize, none can help but the mighty Power.

I was nearly gone on Jany 4 night the first Inst: I had gone to assist at the Sacrt that day: my breath was so short and my lungs oppress'd, that I could not speak: but strove to sit up in bed all night; could not lie down and got no rest. My breath was very short all last winter, and also since Octr last. My son and wife must learn to bear and suffer. You may drop a word of advice from time to time, whether he will take it or not.—

If you get the pamphlet on popery be printed perhaps you may insert on the Title-page— "By an impartial Investigator."

Farewell.— in love — J. C

My Dear Sister London July 26th — 1809

I recd — two letters from you about the middle of March
I have been pretty tolerable for about two months. We had a long dreary win-
ter. I have preached several times for two months, and mean to do so for the
remainder of the summer, as it is probable it will be my last summer.
My Sunday's labour is pretty much, as I go to different places of the
Town to adminr the Sacr= and sometimes to preach in the evening.—
The Lord's mercies have been very great, mingled with afflictions &
great trials. In this respect there is nothing new under the Sun. It
adds to my trials to hear so often of the afflictions &c of my friends in Ire=
land, and I can not help them. I am quite satisfied with your account
of N— —s property & of S— —s money: and have sent it to Ch— and he
will be satisfied too. I desired him to explain it to N. S. It is true the
the difficulties of living here are very great. Taxes upon taxes, and the price
of every thing encreasing are almost enough to drive the lower classes to des-
peration. The war is going on in Europe worse & worse: much blood is shed-
ding, and the distresses of the people in Germany and also in Spain & Por-
tugal are beyond description. God has a controversy and is shaking
mightily the earth.—

I recd — a letter from W— He desires me to thank his friends
most sincerely in his name for the relief sent him, which came in season.
He is weak and worn down scarcely able to walk to the field. &c &c. Some of his
words are —— "When alone in the field, I strive to encourage myself, by
saying, that God who feeds the fowls of the air, and the wild beasts of the fo-
rest, is able to feed my young offspring.— As to my spiritual state, tho'
I have ~~impro~~ mis improved the grace of God, yet I have a feeble trust and
confidence in the mercy of my gracious God, ~~and ... in ...~~ who excites
love and joy in my heart. Indeed Christ is precious. I am striving to sit
loose (as far as I am capable) to all things here, and leave all to God, and com:
mit my large and helpless offspring to him. Tho' we see the lamentable effects
of poverty every day; yet we will say — God doth all things well!" ——

Although I still disapprove of many things which I see among the ris:
ing generation, respecting customs, &c &c: yet I endeavour to make allow-
ance according as the times and manners alter: for circumstances often al=
ter ~~the~~ things: at least we should reflect a good deal, before we wholly condemn.
And we should make allowances for youth and inexperience; ~~which is the best~~
and we know that God must work a change. All must learn ~~by~~ experience, which
is the best teacher: but people often buy it very dear. People have to learn
more and more while they live; and I think they will be learning more to
all Eternity. God alone is infinite; and therefore every finite being may
be advancing still towards him, and yet still be at an infinite distance from
him.

There is something mysterious in Marriages. I always disap-
-proved of the old and the young going together; Adultery is becom=
ing more and more frequent in this country among our great folks;
and trials and divorces almost every week or month. Surely these things
must bring down judgments upon our land. God has borne long with
us: but he is scourging the nations with his up-lifted rod; and
it is highly probable that we shall have our share.
You will continue to pray for us and write to let us know
how all friends with you are — — — — Farewell: ——

J. C. —

I need say little about the convulsions of the nations. The views I ha
many years ago are only confirmed every day. GOD is pouring out the vial
of his wrath mentioned in the Revelations. Most part of the immense French
army was destroyed in Russia by the cold & frost. In this the hand of GOD
was manifest. But they are preparing again to go on to slaughter one anoth
yet most of the world continues in darkness still. However, light will
gradually spread: and many of our great folks here are diffusing the
Bible throughout the world. GOD's cause must surely triumph in the end.
Farewell. with love to all. - - - J. C.

My dear Sister London Decr 17th 1811

I sit down to write you a few lines before the close of th
year; as all things are uncertain and we know not what another day or ano
ther year shall bring forth. My exercises of mind for two months past ha
been very great, and this has affected my body. I have been about removin
from my present house, this has always a trying business to me. Since
my daughters were married on the 17th of Octr. has been a lonely and melan
cholly time to my wife and me, as we have none with us but my grandaughter.
After much difficulty, at length we have providentially got a small house near to where
my daughters live. I want a little rest and to be retired to finish my days. It is plai
that every person will be exercised as long as he lives; and some more th
usual to the very last. If we learn experience by what we suffer, and be
come more dead to this poor world; it will be gain. I hope it has partly an
swered that end. Tho' my daughters here are in a comfortable way; yet
I have long learned that all things beneath the sun are both transitory an
uncertain. It is our duty not to despair in adversity, nor be elated in pros
perity. — — Farewell. - - - — J. C. —

My Dr. Sister April 1812
No 2 Pleasant row, Hackney Lo

I recd. yours of the 2d Jan. in due time, and also one from
I wrote him a long letter some time ago. I am constantly writing to one o
other of my friends, as my time here below is drawing to a close. I hav
gone thro' a great deal since the 5th of Jan: when we held our Covenant
I relapsed several times; and about a month ago had a severe turn whi
nearly finished me, I have got a little better, and go out on Sundays to do a
little duty. Where I am now is a good air, and retired from noise. In that
respect we have much reason to be thankful. But the times are very
hard and like to be much more so. There have been riots in various
parts of the kingdom, for want of employment and want of food. Our Gover
have sent away a great deal of our provisions of bread &c &c, to Portugal
to support our Armies there and in other places. We are protracting th
war, but it will never do any good; for God has a controversy with the na
tions, yea with the whole world. But few see things in a proper light, or take
him into the account. Ireland is more and more distressed. Your coun
try has its disadvantages; tho' at present there is plenty of food: and whil
the lower orders have food, they will be quiet: but when parents have
a number of children starving, it is enough to drive even a pious per
son to desperate acts. Though I disapprove of riots and of mobs; yet I
make allowances for many. I have not room in this or in many sheets
to state to you the situation that ---- is in: but ---- will relate it.
He and a few friends met at ---- on the 8th of Jany. to take into cons
deration printed letters which had been sent to them from other part
calling upon them to pay a debt contracted by the connection (that is imp
by the ---- who are sending out more and more with families to sup
port. ---- drew up a very short paper which they printed and

-ppose the passions, not by braving and insulting the all-powerful, all-wise, and all-merciful Creator; but by an humble, patient inquiry into his works and by submission to his dispensations. They seemed to be well aware, that to him who understood all the bearings and relations of the word, Resignation to the will of God was the whole of piety. If upon sages like these the light of revelation should appear, as the regent of their philosophical day, nothing can be conceived more agust, nothing more enobling, nothing more dignified.

When we have read such writers, it is hardly possible not to turn from modern sceptics and Sciolists with something more than neglect. If to their ~~ribaldry they join folly and gross ignorance~~ philosophy they add witticism and ribaldry, they are nauseous. If to their ribaldry they join folly and gross ignorance, they should be driven from our fellowship with contempt. The continued labours of the arch Phaom a chist of the age;* the records of that perpetual conflict which he maintained, during the course of fifty years of a long and impious life, against the spiritual kingdoms of God and of his Christ, and the memorials of his desolatory days will all be entombed in the French Pantheon with the mouldering remnant of his bones. "Dust to Dust: ashes to ashes". He sowed unto the flesh, and of the flesh he and his disciples have reaped death and corruption.— To the writings of Voltaire these words of Eusebius are applicable: "These are the vaunting of him who fighteth against God; who glories in the strength of his wickedness; who threatens to destroy utterly and to confound the boundaries of nations, (once delivered by the Most High to his angels and messengers;) and to make the whole earth one scene of plunder and devestation; who boasteth that he will shake the sons of men, and subvert and change the state of every ancient ordinance, institution, and regular government."—

Tell - - - that I have transcribed these few things for him, with my almost clay-cold hand. Perhaps they may be of some use to him, when I am mouldering in dust; and, if laid seriously to heart and impressed upon his mind, will be more profitable than if I had bequeathed him ten thousand pounds. Do you continue to pray for him, and your prayers will surely be answered some time or other. But don't tease him about religion; for you will do him more harm than good; as many well-meaning persons have done in like cases. Leave him to the reasonings of his own mind; for God is at work with him; and I have no doubt but all will be well. I expect also that he may be called to defend the Truth of God in his measure & degree.

J. C.

A book is now printing here, and going thro' my hand on the resurrection of the human body. The contemplation of the subject is pleasing to myself at the present time. The Author is a local preacher among us lives in Cornwall: is a strong reasoner. A few years ago, he wrote a book on the immortality and immateriality of the soul.

Extract from a letter dated Mar: 1809

My views of things are taken from the Bible, and I am confirmed in them more and more. The kingdoms of this world must become the kingdoms of Christ; (I think GOD has a controversy with the whole earth) and they must be first humbled by, before that event can take place. I have often said this here; folks are still looking at second causes, but most commonly leave the first one out of the question. As to myself, I can say little more than that I just exist hovering between life and death. I am suffering three days past a most violent rheumatism in my head, so that I scarcely can hold it up, whilst I write this. My mind is calm, tho' no triumphant joy: yet I have no doubts or fears. Give my love to all friends, letting them know that I am still on this side of Jordan, tottering in body, but trusting in my Pilot to carry me over. You must all follow soon: therefore be getting ready. May we all meet at length in the haven of eternal repose. Remember me and mine at the Throne. Yours affec.y —— J. C.

As Time is precious, and my strength is daily growing weaker, I feel the more anxious to give my friends some little memorandom that I am still in the body, and whilst I am, I still feel an attachment to them. I wish I could write something more profitable for you than these I have sent papers.

I bless GOD, he supports me wonderfully, and I believe his presence is with me. I hope that when I depart hence I shall enter into his rest, and be for ever with him. This winter has been very severe. I have a trying and fatiguing time on Sun.ys. On the first of Jan: we renewed our Covenant at the City-road as usual. I got no Clergyman to assist me; but one of the preachers gave out a hymn now and then, when I sat down a few minutes. There were about 700 communicants. I was on my feet moving to and fro for two hours. I was circumstanced the same way last year; and expected it would have been my last time. ——— I am tracing back every event of my life from my cradle; and see that all have been directed by my heavenly Father to work together for good. Every thing was in mercy and love; yea, the severest trials and the darkest dispensations were mercies in disguise. I bless his name that I never murmered at any thing he did all my life; for he gave me to see that I deserved nothing but correction at his hand; and he enabled me in some measure to bear up under afflictions of a very trying nature.

The whole world is more and more ~~out of~~ convulsed and out of course. I have many years ago said that it would be so; but it is hard to get people to open their eyes, or to lay things to heart. Few see the finger of GOD in all this. He is only doing what he foretold many ages ago, that he would do in the latter days. But our chief business is to look beyond this poor world to a more permanent state of things. I believe there will be a time of tranquility even upon this earth: but it may be at a great distance yet. I bless GOD, I feel serenity of mind, amidst all this outward noise. But I feel greatly for the rising generation; for I think they 'll have to pass thro' calamities of various kinds, and they have not got sufficient experience to trust in and look to GOD in all events. One's own experience is best of all.

Let us pray for each other, till we meet above. Yours affec.y J.

my merciful and indulgent Father was pleased to intermix many
cies among all these things. I see this more and more clearly; and
the disappointments were mercies. I have made many resigna=
ons, with a temporal loss. I resigned my place in the School of Cavan:
resigned the Curacy of Kilmore to Thos Cradock, when the Bishop desired
. I had then nothing at all to depend upon in the world. After some months
went to the County Leitrim; staid three years; then resigned my place
Tutor; and went to Swanlingbar. I would have got Kilmore again
had applied in time; but Mr Fox was before me, and I had to
his place in Kinawly; which was a most wretched country.
here I struggled thro' hardships of various kinds for upwards of
thirteen years. Then I resigned the Curacy and came here: and I
have gone thro' here what no language can describe. I resigned my
place of Corrector of the press in 1792 at a loss of 60 £ pr Annum.
And I have now resigned my all; with a reliance on Him who
as hitherto supported me. Oh! that I could tell all mankind
of his goodness, and encourage all to put their whole trust in
Him. Yet they must still exert themselves, both in a temporal and
in a Spiritual sense. For there are some that talk in a foolish &
enthusiastical way. The Bishop of Kilmore was an enemy to real
religion; and I would have been in a miserable way there. It was
well that I left it when I did. I see many other disappointments
were the mercies of an unseen hand.

Feb. 10th. — Since I wrote the foregoing, I have recd yours of
Decr 17th. I am very glad that Jimmy has got the Books. It will be
long before he can read them through: but they will afford him much in-
formation, and will tend to expand his mind. I think God is working
upon his mind: and I don't wonder that he should reason and have doubts
when he sees and considers the world around, and more so when he consid[ers]
the religious or professing world. God by his Spirit must give a true sim=
plicity to see or receive the Gospel Plan. Do you continue to pray
on: and acknowledge that it is God alone who can effect the work o[f]
truly enlighten the mind. God often lets religious parents feel
their inability in th[ese ca]ses; that they may cry the more earnes[tly]
to Him, in behalf of themselves and their children. The books are rather
high: but printing &c and every kind of work is increasing with the circum=
stances of the Times. The expence also of duty & sending them on board wa[s]
greater than I expected. I mentioned to him that he may sell some of
them after a time, if he chooses, or if he don't fully like them: tho' they
are all useful books. I believe it will be best for him to get the re=
mainder of Clarke's Bible from the man in N. York who is print[ing]
it there. I owe Jim: 10 shillings, which will more than pay for anoth[er]
Number; if I can get an opportunity of sending it out. The second [?]
is not near printed yet: for they were obliged to reprint the first num[ber]
as there was a great demand for it, which has caused the delay. I the[?]
it will be some years before the whole is finished. And tho' some of [?]
Notes will not suit many of the lower Class of people; yet I believ[e]
it will be generally useful to all ranks, both learned and unlear[ned]
to rising generations. I fear Dr Clarke's health will fail, thro' con[?]
[...] and hard labour; and many things to irritate his mind.

because God cannot contradict himself. Every act of God is an act of infinite goodness: it was perfect goodness that created the world, ~~formed~~ and permitted the entrance of all the evils we deplore. Divine goodness makes the best things and produces the greatest good. We may therefore be assured that this world, formed as it is, is best adapted to the end: an end most perfect and excellent; and that it was not possible to create us in the beginning as holy & as perfect as we shall be hereafter. Had it been possible, or, which is the same thing with God, had it been fit and right, infinite wisdom and goodness would not have acted otherwise."—

From the Honourable Robert Boyle. "It is not a greater happiness to inherit a good religion, than it is a fault to have it only by inheritance, & think it the best because it is generally embraced, rather than embrace it because we know it to be the best. Though we cannot always give a reason for what we believe, we should be ever able to give a reason why we believe it. It is the greatest of follies to neglect any diligence, that may prevent the being mistaken, where it is the greatest of miseries to be deceived. How dear soever things taken upon the score are sold, there is nothing worse taken up upon trust than religion; in which he deserves not to meet with the true one, that cares not to examine ~~what ever~~ whether or no it be so."—

From Bishop Butler's Analogy. "Temptations render our state a more improving state of discipline, than it would be otherwise; as they give occation for a more attentive exercise of the virtuous principle, which confirms and strengthens it more, than an easier or less attentive exercise of it could.— Temtations, I say as such and of every kind and degree as they call forth some virtuous efforts, additional to what would otherwise have been wanting, cannot but be an additional discipline and improvement of virtue, as well as probation of it in the other senses of that word."—

From The Pursuits of Literature.

"Can the violence, the presumption, the audacity, the arrogance, the tyranny of man, drunk with self-idolatry and temporary success, change the nature and essence of God and of his works, by calling good evil and evil good? I am told that human reason is nearly advanced to full perfection; I am assured, that she is arrived at the havan, where she would be. I look around me, and ask, where is that havan? Where is that steady gale which has conducted her? I listen; but it is the tempest. I pause again.— Perhaps, it is the wind and storm fulfilling his word.

"I resume the reflection of suffering humanity, amid the wreck of intellect. This was not the antient character of Philosophy. The lovers of wisdom, in the best ages of Athens and of Rome, always discoursed with reverence & submission to the Author and Governor of the world. They considered of whom they spoke. If they turned to the origion of evil, or to any dark and unfathomable question, they first called upon man to consider the limits of his understanding. They warned him, with most peculiar emphasis, to beware of those difficulties of hard solution, which is but increased by defences or arguments ill constructed. They implored him affectionately, to avoid all that tends to overthrow, to trouble, or disturb those principles, which conduce to peace and to right action. Their advice was to strengthen the intellect, and

-think that your country will soon partake in the dreadful effects of these perilous times; for your Govern^t^ seem intent upon war. We have no where to fly, but shelter ourselves under the wings of Jehovah, untill the indignation be overpast.— Ireland is in a most miserable situation. Our friends there are suffering and like to suffer, what no language can tell—~~&c~~.

On the 23^d^ of Dec. I rec^d^ yours of Octr the 28th I had sent a letter to you the day before, which I hope you will receive in due time.— I am very glad at the acc^t^ you give of your ----. As to his doubts and reasonings about religion; they are very common, and they are working for good: because he will be the better prepared to answer the cavellings of others upon the same subject. If he can meet with them, he should read the writings or accounts of those who has been Deists, but were at last convinced and brought to GOD, and have written in defence of Christianity. Since he has read Deistical writings, he should read with attention and impartiality what has often been said in answer to them on the other side. This is but fair. There is an account in our Mag: a few years ago of the conversion of a Deist, written by himself, Dr Alexander, a Physician. I have more hopes of one who makes his objections but is sincerely enquiring about religion, than of one who is quite careless about it, and gives himself no trouble at all to investigate.— It is no wonder that your —— as well as thousands before, should be puzzled about many things in the Bible: but there is enough plain for practical religion, in order to salvation; that he that runs may read it, and understand it too. Bishop of Lan: answer to Paine. and Mr Chas Leslie's short method with Deists, is useful to such enquirers. I rejoice at the prospect that darkness and ignorance will be gradually dispelled and the true light will shine more and more unto the perfect day. I approve of persons reading useful books, which may tend to enlarge the mind: but they should still apply fervently to the Father of light, to give them a right understanding, and impress upon their minds such truths as they may read.

I will here give you a few extracts which I took many years ago. From Archbishop Usher:— "If we take a survey of the several professions of Christianity at this day, which have a large spread in any part of the world; and should put by the points wherein they differ from one another, and should put by the points wherein they differ from one another, and gather into one body the rest of the Articles wherein they all generally agree; we should find that in those propositions, which without controversy are so universally received in the whole Christian world; so much truth is contained as, being joined with holy obedience, may be sufficient to bring a man into everlasting salvation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace shall be upon them".

From Monsr Petit Pierre.— "Why did not GOD create man as perfect and holy as he shall be, when he arrives at the mansions of Bliss? GOD in forming this world, has not excluded moral and physical evil. Such an exclusion was impossible; or in other words, moral and physical evil were the natural consequences of that freedom of will necessary to beings in a state of probation and improvement. The total exclusion of evil was not an object for the divine Omnipotence to exercise its

Feb: 8th 181

8745 AND
N.Y. 10017
9, ENGLAND

My Dear Sister,

I take up my pen once more to let you kn
that I have not yet passed over Jordan. I have seen another Bi
Day. I think I wrote to you this time last year upon a similar occa
From various circumstances, I suppose your thoughts have been fo
some time lately ~~an~~ exercised, whether I was or was not departed
the invisible world? I am, thro' the mercy of a long-suffering God,
here a little longer, contrary to the expectation of myself and even
others. I believe I wrote to you not long before Christ= but do not re-
collect any thing that I then said: but suppose I mentioned my hav
caught my old winter's companion early in Novr thro' the rains and
damp weather. I found great difficulty in reading the prayers by a
perpetual cough. therefore I resigned on Christmas day, after assisting
the Sacrament with Dr Coke. I have kept within since that time, till
on the 3d Inst: I went again to adminr the Sact. I shall endeavour so
do on the first Sunday in every month till Conference. The Trustees hav
applied to a Mr Vasey to come in my place: but he cannot fully deter-
mine or come till Conference: as he is travelling in a Circuit. He wa
over in America. He and Mr Whatcoat went with Dr Coke the first
time. After some time he got ordained by an American Bishop.
returned to England and has been travelling among us. I believe
will not be very acceptable to the people: but the Trustees cannot
get any other: as the Clergy are more averse than ever to com
among us. And the Bishops and higher Clergy are alarmed against
Dissenters and Methodists becoming so numerous. My brother Rober
had advised me to resign, and thought the time was come, before my ment
faculties should fail more. As to temporal matters, I was enabled
cast my care upon Him who has hitherto brought me through; and
who has never failed them who trust in him. All the Stewards and
Trustees in every part of the Town are my friends, and most of the people
and I believe they will still help to support me; tho' I made no con-
dition: only I will still do a little, if I am any way able.

I have for some months been particularly led to reflect every
minute or hour on the mercies of God extended to me; tho' deeply
convinced that I am the most unworthy of them of all the human
race. I have been tracing back all the events of my whole life: and
clearly see that all the crosses, disappointments, afflictions, trials,
bitter draughts, &c &c, were permitted by a wise Providence that
they might work together for my good. I have eaten bitter herbs all
my way thro' the wilderness. I have been supported chiefly by charity
of my life, at School, in the College, and also here; for my Salary would
by no means do. It would be tedious to mention ten thousand things:
they were all necessary to break my will; which is the same as o
...; and which must some way or other, or at last be brought into
...ission to the will of God. It is natural for us to avoi

carry on the work which God intends: and if he were taken off tomorrow God will raise up another and another from time to time to effect this end.
I long to hear about S—s family; whether they are alive, or returned: & likewise about Dr. Mr. D. Give my love to them all when you write: let them know I am still on this side Jordon, expecting shortly to pass over. I long have been tossed about by various storms, hard toiling to make the blest shore. If I live six weeks longer, I shall close my 70th year. I never expected to have lived so long; & yet I may say with old Jacob: few and evil have the days of my life been. I have also lived upwards of 25 years in this great City. May my good Pilot conduct and support me during the remaining struggles, and at last bring me to the haven where I would be.
—— is greatly tried with some; they are so grossly ignorant, and cannot bear that any one should think them so or reprove them. He thinks many in Ireland are not truly converted, & therefore how can they instruct others. He is therefore reasoning what will be the end of these things. A. B. is dead and made a good end. She was very honest, saw much evil among some in her day and they wanted to expel her but for fear: for she had employed an Attorney to write her life. &c. &c. I believe she died at Monaghan. I have seen and known also much that I could not approve: but I remain quiet, and say surely God will take care of his Church, and provide for its needs. In this kingdom there is a kind of outward prosperity: and I hope many of the people have real religion. They are going on amazingly building Chapels, and many of them large ones. This year 129 have been ordered to be built. Some think that the Govern.t will be alarmed at the increase of Dessenters; for such the Meth.s now are, in every respect. I tell them sometimes, If they do not carry ballast, they will overset the ship. — There will certainly be great changes both in Church and State both here and throughout the world; and tho' Infidility will increase, yet there is a kind of light gone forth, and spreading, which I trust will produce good in the end. The people were long kept in gross darkness by the Romish Church; but they are beginning to think for themselves at least: ~~in temporal~~ And others are copying after them in a sense respecting temporal matters, and their political System; and the young converts are kept in the dark: but when any one begins to see or to speak, he is shoved out or his character is blackened, and then all he can say goes for nothing. There is nothing new in all this: it has been so, and I fear will be so a while longer. I am now dying, and I do not know how to advise those I leave behind, what part of the religious world to join fully. All have some defects among them. I like the Doctrines of the Meth.s best; and I think if their lives were agreeable to them, they would be the best people in the world. But, alass! all are not Israel that are of Israel. Every one must judge for themselves; and I can only commend them to God. I strive to hope against hope, that all things will work for good in the end. As to myself, I am endeavouring to put my whole confidence in God. I believe he doth all things well; and that he desires to make all creatures happy, and that happiness is only to be found in a union with him. I am not harrassed with any doubts or fears, respecting the future state: yet I would not be too confident or secure. It is always necessary to watch and pray. I have nothing to depend upon but the merit of the atoning blood; and to be saved as a sinner. I see more and more the excellence of this glorious plan of redemption which God himself, and none else could find out. I see that, notwith—

all the evil which is in this world thro' sin; yet a much higher degree of [illegible] will ensue than that in which man was at first placed. I believe that infinitely more will be saved than lost. When I was last year at the sea, I heard a man preach, who asserted positively that all the heathen world are reprobated. I could not receive this, or think so hard of God. I read that Peter was taught otherwise, that in every nation he who fears God and works righteousness, is accepted: and it is accepted of a man, according to what he has, and not according to what he has not. All who die in their infancy, or without actual sin, are saved and all idiots. These make much more than half of what are born: and thousands more are brought in by the preaching of the Gospel or other means. I grant that it is thro' the second Adam that all are quickened or made alive, and to him alone we must ascribe the whole praise. I have some thoughts of getting rid of this house, and getting a smaller one, as we don't want so large a one, and the taxes high. I would rather not move if I could, untill I am moved to my last home.

I have buried the most of my old acquaintance here; and a new race is risen up. We have large congregations, and for the most part good preachers. I hope good is doing. Our present Superintendent is Mr G--h an Irishman; and our last Mr C---e, my particular friend, is also of that country. He is now moved to another part of the Town and is Supernumerary; because he has got a business to do for some Gentlemen who were appointed by [illegible] to search the old Records of the kingdom, and to print such as are worth preserving. This is a heavy business, and he has several other things in hand in the printing way. I suppose you saw J. B-. About this time his mind became deranged, or malancholly. He continued so all the spring and tho' his wife had been somewhat watchful of him he took an oppertunity one night when she was asleep to cut his throat. This made a great noise in the country and some of the Calvinists said that no real christian was ever guilty of this crime. One of our preachers preached his funeral sermon, and asserted boldly that he was as surely in heaven as Jesus Christ was there.

It is very shocking to hear of suicide here almost every day or week but especially for two months past. I lately wrote a paper about it, and sent it to a magazine in the other end of the Town. I know not if they will insert it.

Give my love to all with you. Pray for me and mine. Farewell. J.

My dear sister — London Feb: 5th 1810

I wrote to you very lately, and sent two packets &c. Every moment is big with great events; and my shattered frame is tending fast to dissolution. I bless God, my mind is serene, I am mostly in my room, have little intercourse with the world, or even those who profess religion. I know that men are but poor and miserable comforters at best. I have therefore been long taught to take refuge in God alone; I converse with him, and I believe he is present with me, and approves of me in some measure, thro' the merits and intercession of my great advocate. I have nothing to rely on upon but the alone merits of his atoning blood; and I have a firm confidence that thro' him I shall gain the haven of eternal rest. This day is appointed as a day of general humilation before God for the sins of the nation and our own. We have had a very good and affecting sermon this morning on this head from our Superintendant Mr Griffith

[th]e risi[n]g life of Jesus in ourselves. — The seventh Nation is the Girgashites. These [a]re earthly, dirty spirits, that tempt and draw us to the earthly life, [an]d its vanities; to bestial lusts, to excesses in all things, against the law of [m]oderation, purity, temperance &c.

And all these spirits fight in us to their last breath, even till they are [w]hole destroyed by the powerful resurrection of Jesus in Spirit, in us and his ascension in us; which is our perfection, in the life and nature of the Son of GOD, who will at last cast them out of the fallen humanity, and himself reign entire over them all to eternity. Amen. Hallelujah."—

It is very remarkable that GOD commanded the children of Israel to [d]rive out the Inhabitants of the Land from before them, but if they should [le]t any of them remain, then he declares they would be thorns in their [s]ide to vex them. The whole History of the Israelites affords us many useful [l]essons, and prefigure the progress of the spiritual Church thro' the wilder[n]ess of this world to the heavenly Canaan, or land of rest. See what the Apostle saith concerning them in the twelve first verses of the 10 ch. of 1st [Co]r.— and concludes these things happened to them for ensamples, and [a]re written for our admonition.

Whilst I was at Bristol I was on the point of entering into that rest that the people of GOD enjoy here; but thro' weakness, or I knew not what I could not lay hold of the promise in Ezek: 36. 26. 27. a young man of the name of Clark from the north of Ir[eland] preached with mighty power and convincing arguments; there was, I believe a great cry put into many hearts, at least in mine, while I walked a mile to my lodging, and all the night, for I did not sleep till near morning. After I had wrestled in Prayer and was going to lie down, I went to open the Bible for some encouraging promise and opened on one, I continued most of the night crying for the fulfillment of the promise, and had sweet drops of his love, the next morn[-]ing after I had arose and prayed, I opened the Bible on Isaiah, 14. 15 verses. [Y]et after all these encouraging promises, I can not yet say I am in full [po]ssession of the blessing. Oh! how slow of heart are we to receive what [G]OD reaches out to us, and would have us take. I think I have gained some advantages, and can cast my care more upon GOD than I used to do. I am not so unhappy in my mind at the thoughts of preaching as I was, but I endeavour to speak sometimes to those who are simple of heart, and who look to GOD for a blessing and not to man.

Give my love to all friends. I hope we shall bear each other on our minds till we meet above to part no more. Farewell! Live in peace, and the GOD of peace will be with you. Fear not, the name of the Lord is a strong Tower; run into it and you shall be safe. Look to the wise for wisdom, and to the strong for strength in the hour of trial, and he will bring you off more than conquerors at last.

I am your affectionate Brother J. C—

Them

My dear Sister   London [illegible]

Thro the mercy of God I am brought to the conclusion of
the year. I take this opportunity to let you know that I still exist, tho' I can
scarcely say that I live. Afflictions and trials generally increase as we app[roach]
older. The history of the Jews is only the history of mankind in every age. [illegible]
not attended to or considered as much as it ought. The Jews soon began to m[urmur]
[ev]er after they had passed the red sea, because they met with some difficu[lties]
but they met with much greater afterwards, and were severely punished for the[ir]
rebellion and unbelief. Many people make a loud cry in the beginning of sickne[ss]
but after it is continued for years, they complain less; when they have learn[ed]
experience by the things which they have suffered. I fully believe that all o[ur]
trials, at least those which are of God's appointment, are intended to work for
our good; and that he is "most merciful when most severe." If people would al[-]
ways keep this in mind, it would help to bear them up a little. Oh! what ha[s]
man to complain of against God, when it is of his mercy alone that they a[re]
not more severely punished and spurned from his presence. Tho' we ma[y]
relate some of our trials or afflictions to each other; and tho' we cannot alleviate
them; we may however sympathize with and pray for each other. I did not go
to the sea this year. Octr was exceeding cold and stormy in Nov. & part of Dec[r]
was milder. I was tolerable for about a month; but last week was laid up. [illegible]
I struggled out last Sunday the 10th and officiated in our great chapel, and als[o]
preached: and ~~then~~ had to go to another part of the Town in the evening, and could sc[arce-]
ly get home. I am now confined, and can give you little Idea of the way I am in;
perfect weakness, and the phlegm so encreases as almost to choke me, and [pre-]
[vent]s me to get very little sleep. The phlegm for years had been so distressing
it prevents me from reading with any satisfaction to myself or others. I fee[l]
pain in my head, and am feverish at present. I have much exercise of [mind]
about my children: when I take a view of the world they have to pass thr[o']
the difficulties before them; I have great need of faith. I do exercise what I h[ave]
and I still hope that all things are some way working for good in the en[d].
sure I have great reason to bless a most kind and merciful Providence [that]
has thus far brought me thro' the wilderness: and supplied my wants by [the]
way; tho' I often suffered hardships more than you or my other friend[s]
knew. It is probable you will have troubles in your country as well [as in]
Europe. The whole world is convulsed and out of course. I have often [said]
many years ago that it would be so; and I now think it will be more
more. There has been dreadful slaughter in Spain lately. The Spaniard[s]
roused up to madness against Buonaparte: and applied to us for assi[stance]
we sent them armies and other help: but I believe it will come to nothing. [He]
has deprived the Pope of much of his temporal power, and in a great m[ea-]
sure pulled him down. The priests in Spain expected the same, and [had]
their Churches robbed of Images & much treasure; for this had been [the]
the case in Portugal where the French got possession. These two nati[ons]
were very superstitious and bigotted to their religion; and much blo[od]
shed there formerly by the Inquisition: which I think is crying for [ven-]
geance, and God is about to avenge it. I am afraid Ireland will have [it]
[illegible] the same ground; as much blood was shed there by the papist[s]
[illegible] upon him as an instr[ument]

bless God, my wife seems to put greater trust in Providence than ever I my-self. Indeed she has seen so ~~much~~ of many instances of his goodness, that she cannot but trust him. My maid seems to be contented to stay for the present I have raised her wages. It would be a great loss to me if she should leave us, as I need take no thought about the house; she is so careful and honest, she is very fond of the Children and has many excellent moral qualities. She has lately consented to meet in a class. We have not a loud or a hasty word in my family thro' the whole year; so that for this also we have great reason to be thankful. A little after we came to England, a young man of the name of D--, from Bethesda came here also and has continued since. He was very simple and humble and I think zealous. Somewhat more than a year ago he believed he was called to preach. Many of the young men go to exhort, pray, and preach at the work-houses among the poor, and do much good; these are a class below the local preachers. D- used to meet and having preached before them by way of trial, they did not much approve of his gifts, but would not intirely discourage him, therefore desired him to exhort at the workhouses, and sometimes preach; but he had a higher opinion of himself, and thought his gifts should not be confined to obscure places; he got acquainted with Lady Huntington's people, is going to an Accadamy among them in order to be ordained and flourish away in a Gown. He is now a Calvinist and reads none but their books. About a year ago he had his hair dishevilled upon his shoulders, thinking it wrong to wear it otherwise, but now has it curled close to his head; I fear he will go to destruction, tho' he is fully persuaded he will never fall. — Lately reading a book written above a centuary ago. I was convinced that there was more instruction intended by God for us in the historical parts of the old Testament than ever I thought before. It appears that all the Hebrew names both of men and places had some mystical meaning, and were intended ~~by~~ to convey instruction in our spiritual progress to the succeeding generations. The author of this book seems to be well acquainted with all the conflicts, hinderances, delays, comforts, and consolations, which the soul meets with from its first awakening 'till it enters into glory. He takes notice of the 42 journeys of the children of Israel in the wilderness recorded in the 33^d of Numbers, which he says represents, in the spiritual wilderness, the various difficulties ~~and~~ and ~~atleast~~ succours, the encounters with and victory over sin and satan as corresponding with the internal teaching, and also with the testimony of the holy scriptures. The whole explaining the great and gradual work of regeneration. He first explains the Hebrew names, then refers to the history of that place, then applies it in a spiritual sense to the soul. He observes that Moses wrote down the names from the mouth of the Lord. or as it is translated at the second verse, by the commandment of the Lord, who is intended to convey more to us than barely the historical account. there are many other excellent things in the book. Surely of books there is no end: and of the Books which have been written in various nations and in different ages concerning spiritual and divine instructions and explaining the holy Scriptures; of these I say we have no conception. And tho no one man ever could, or perhaps ever will explain the whole. As it was written by different men in different ages, so it is expounded by little and little by different men in various ages, as G.d gives light: it is a work too great for one age, even the age of Methuselah!

I cannot refrain from transcribing a little from another part of the Book before mentioned, as may be more profitable to you than any thing I can say. — "The seven nations (he says) which Joshua cast out of Canaan prefigure the evil properties which Jesus casts out of our souls. The first [illegible] tion are the Hittites, signifying the spirits of fear and discouragment: they discourage the soul continually with false fears, affrighting and terrifying it from its work: sometimes raising up infidelity, sometimes false reasoning, disputing against faith and the power of GOD, telling us that none can come to perfection, that none can overcome sin self, and the passions and distempers of the old man, &c — But the spirit of faith in the name of Jesus, doth at last conquer these Hittites. — The second nation are the Amorites, signifying the bitter fierce talking and judging spirits judging from this or that, and all from the root of bitterness. These bitter spirits do much hinder the sweet lilly of the valley from springing up in the soul, even the soft, meek, gentle nature of the Lamb from acting out its [illegible] tue to ourselves, or to others. In a word the spirits of envy, enmity, jealousy and rash judging are Amoritish spirits, which Joshua, that is Jesus cometh to cast out. — The third nation are the Canaanites, the merchandizing spirits, that traffick in our minds, wills, thoughts, senses, immaginations, and affections; they fetch in buyers and sellers into the temple of the soul, and make it run out beyond due measure, in traffick ing with them: sometimes in things we have nothing to do with, or about things of no moment; and thereby pollute and defile our souls, by opposing the Lamb's law of holy silence and pure stillness, and departing from the one thing necessary. The fourth nation are the Perrizzites, the careless, secure spirits; that open the door of false liberty, before the crucifying work is [illegible] circumcision past, and regeneration finished. These spirits labour to [illegible] us off from our watchfulness, makes us neglect the cross, and be secure, [illegible] to let in all manner of evil spirits, to oppress the life of the Lamb in us, th[at] by forsaking the way of the cross and continual circumcision, sin may ge[t] again, and bear rule over the life of Christ rising in us. — The fifth nation are the Hivites. The talking, notional spirits, that move us to talk of vain and needless things: these awaken vain thoughts and immaginations, and fill our fancy with empty romances and scenes; and bring forth a multiplicity of words and many useless and sinful discources and disputes, which greatly hinder the further growth of the divine light and life. These spirits take their rise from the spirit of this world, and all labour to bring forth a talking, notional religion among professors, to delude them, and make them think they live well, because they talk well. — The sixth nation are the Jebusites, figuring the spirits of pride and elevation: The name signifies to trample upon and despise; they would ever be trampling under foot the blood and merits of Jesus: they sleight and despise the meek and humble way of the cross of Christ. They are always tempting us to undervalue the precious things of GOD, and would draw us into apostacy, making us to sleight the redeeming blood of the Lamb, puffing us up in spiritual pride, making us to th[ink] we are perfect, before we are so indeed and so by degrees, draw us to [illegible]

Copies of letters of
Rev James Creighton

My Dear Sister Nov. 8 ... 1786

Yours of the 10th of Oct. came safe to hand. What a m... is that we can thus converse with each other, however great the dis... that lies between! the mercies of GOD are without number and with... end. Oh that men would therefore praise him for his favours, and be tell... his goodness from day to day. Amidst afflictions which I have experienc... in showring down blessings upon me both in temporals and spirituals. I do find much gratitude toward him. tho' I know my love can never bear any propor-tion to the unspeakable love of GOD. I was in a great measure restored af-ter having spent 5 weeks at Bristol and Bath, I returned here about the middle of Sepr. and in five days after caught cold, which I have re-heated several times since, &c I was much exercised both in body and mind for a month in looking out for a place, in many houses that I went to look at I was disappointed. &c — Moving I have always found to be a time of trial, and I have had my share of it. so that if it is the will of GOD, I have a wish to live and die here. I believe, thro' many mazes the Lord has brought me to this place, and I expect in a little time to have it very comfortable. — When I returned home in Sepr. I was a little exercised in mind, not indeed filled with anxious cares for the morrow; but as my income was lessened, and the prospect of my expences and family encreased, it made me think a little, and resolve to deny myself some things that I stood in need of, for my coat was now become bare, and some other things were wanting for myself and family. But shortly after I recd. a plentiful supply for the present necessitys. some of which I did not know from whom; that here is a subject for you to join with me in loving, praising, and adoring him from whom all blessings flow. I want for nothing but health at present. I have myself and family well clothed &c &c — And yet I have as much room to exercise faith as ever. for this is only a supply for the present, and I have no certainty for the time to come, but to rely on him who never disappointed them that put their trust in him. The Gentleman who sent me ten Pounds now and also ten last spring is a Danish Merch.t very rich, and of unbounded generosity, very humble has always his Bible & prayerbook reading &c He married his oldest daughter last year and gave her twenty or thirty thousand pound fortune. He would think less of giving fifty or a hundred pounds away than most of the noblemen in your country would a guinea. When I was at Bath I heard of a maiden Lady about four score years of age, living within a mile of that City, who gives away in Charity and for charitable uses, five thousand Pounds a year. These things should be mentioned to the Glory of GOD, that he has in England, some, nay I believe many stewards, who are faithful in distributing the things that he has intrusted them with. — I fear R— will have greater trials than he is yet aware of from his wife; but I trust all will work together for his eternal good. I never in all my life reckoned any great advantage from a wife's fortune, for if they bring a large one they either bring proportionable expence, or something that is a counter balance. What avails hundreds or thousands of pounds if they give way to distrust or fear, and is therefore unhappy? — How true, and yet how strange is that old observation, that generally the more men have, the more they desire! That precept therefore should be attended to — when riches encrease set not thy heart upon them.

A Continuation of Creighton's papers in separate folder.

a right use of it; or consider that they are only stewards of God to distribute superfluities, or what they do not need. Had H--- been in prosperity, he could not bear it; but would be tenfold worse even than he is. Therefore I am striving to hope against hope. I have resigned my daughter long ago to God: and trust he will in some way take care of her. She wrote lately to her Brother.
I have been much afflicted for two months past; and am worn to such a degree that it is wonderful how I hold out. — I have endeavoured to scribble this in great simplicity, and with sincerity (as you are well convinced.) It will at least appear to you at a future day as a token of regard. — May you and your dear brother, and all our dear friends, meet in a better world, to rejoice tog[ether] and part no more. —

Farewell! — Yours affec—y

Our friends in Ireland are suffering in various ways, and I expect they will always be so. Perhaps it is so best. I see more and more that very few can bear prosperity: but it is impossible to persuade young people to believe this, untill they learn it by dear bought experience. R-- is not only afflicted in body in an extraordinary way; but his mind is harrassed in various ways. He is oppressed much by numbers who call on their way to and fro. The beggars also are innumerable every day. his wife is much oppressed by them. The people of that country are grown more wicked than they were. My wife perceived a change for the worse since we left it. I fear that country will get another scourge. There was some risings of whiteboys again. The papists are still dissatisfied, and want more priveleges from the Government; yet I think they have as much as they ought; for the more they get, the worse they grow. —

Methodism is rather in a state of outward prosperity in this kingdom: but whether religion is increasing in proportion I am not sure. Our Conference have ordered 129 chapels to be built this year: and fifty or sixty have been built or ordered every year for ten or twelve years past. They have lately built two very large chapels here, and two or three more are proposed. The expence is immence, for the materials are raised very much by the war.

Remember me to all friends in your parts. Strive to write to me if you can; pray for us all, and for your affect— brother — J. C—

My dear Sister London Sepr 22: 1809

I have lately rec^d your Letter dated Augt. My wife and daughter are returned safe from Ireland where they had been for three months. They are much better for it, and I hope it has been of great use to them in many respects. My wife was glad to get away with her life. She gives a shocking acc^t of the people there, and says they are changed much for the worse since she left there &c. I am glad she went, as she will be more thankful and resigned to her lot. We suffer, and trade thro' war, and our taxes are great; but we enjoy many mercies, which other countries are deborred of. Tho' long threatened, the enemy has not been permitted to invade us hitherto. There has lately been a great contest in Spain, and I expect much blood will be spilt yet. We have sent troops there to assist the Spaniards against the French. It is very likely you will have a share of the troubles of the present day; for the French have their Agents among you to stir up your States against the English. Your President also, I hear is inclined that way. It is plain that there is no country free from troubles and calamities of some kind. A few days ago, a dreadful fire consumed one of the play houses here, and several more near it. Many lives have been lost, and many are supposed to be still lying in the ruins. Yet the people do not take warning by these things. They talk of beginning to build up this Theatre again soon. Such is the state of the world from generation to generation. My son is going on pretty well he has to work very hard from five in the morning to seven in the evening in summer; & from six to six in the winter half year. People are the better to have some hardships in their youth. They can bear more in old age. Tell your son not to be stumbled at the improper conduct of individuals: for human nature is the same in every age, and in every clime: and we can not stand a moment, but by the assistance and the power of God. Our Uncle W— B— was living sometime ago, aged 90, and his wife. He is very miserable; tho' had a great deal of money, was always cursedly covetous. — I can in a great measure trust God with myself & family. I hope Mrs H— will learn experience by the things she is suffering, and has suffered. I doubt not but you will pray for us all: and I hope we shall all meet at last in the haven of rest. — Farewell — J^s C

My dear Sister O^ct 22. 1808

I take the opportunity of a ship about to sail shortly to your City to write you a few lines; I believe I wrote since my Wife & Dau^r returned from Ire^d. They were much the better for going &c &c. We are like to have a severe winter; at least it sets in very early. It has brought on my cough with an amazing quantity of phlegm much sooner than ~~I expected~~ usual; so that I must expect more affliction. The wars in Europe seem to go on more fierce than ever. The Lord is pouring out the vials upon the nations. I expect there will be much blood spilt in Spain. The old King of Spain with his queen and son were inveigled into France, under some pretext and are kept there as a sort of prisoners. Buonap^e sent one of his brothers to Spain to be king: but the Span^s rejected him and took up arms &c &c. I said many years ago, that I believed there would be more and greater wars than ever in the earth; and I think so still. God has a great work to do on the earth; and the wicked will be swept off by one means or other; and a remnant will be preserved, until his own kingdom is established: but Oh! who shall live then, when God does this? I have long thought that this time is much farther off than many are aware of: tho' God can do much in a short time.

body, soul and Spirit; to grieve no more." — This is the account simply as ~~I tell~~ the man related it to me. I supposed then and do now, that God condescended thus to satisfy his mind. I never saw an apparition nor an evil Spirit; yet I can not deny that there have been such and may often, as appears by accounts given by serious and sensible people: But at the same time I believe many have given way too much to imagination and fear. — It seems that the woman at Endor retired with modesty, while Samuel was talking with Saul; but afterwards when she found Saul in distress, she behaved kindly to him, and very probably she never practised her Art any more. —

When I began this Letter I did not think to scribble so much as I have done: for indeed my hand is weak, and my whole frame worn to such a degree as you can have little conception of. But it is probable it may be the last you will get from me; I just put down a few simple Ideas as they occured to my mind at the moment. They may, perhaps, amuse you or some one else at a future day, when the hand that wrote them lies mouldering in dust. I don't impose my opinion dogmatically on any man: I leave them to judge for themselves: but let them be candid and serious, and pray that they may be enlightened to discern where the Truth lies. —

I think Origin was a pious good man: but he gave way to some foolish speculations, which some of his followers added to, or wrested; and the Church of Rome adoped some of these things and also added more, which is no credit to the Christian religion. But what is Origin or ten thousand more? they are liable to misstake; but tho' a man makes some mistakes I am not therefore to reject every thing he says. I would go with the Pope as far as I could: but I would use the best of my judgment. Origin, before his conversion to Christianity, was a scholar of a great heathen Philosopher at Alexandria, named Ammonius. and Origin attempted afterwards to blend some of this man's dogmas with Christianity. In this he was entirely wrong. And I think there are many great men in our day that are attempting to do something of the same kind: but their wisdom will come to nought. Religion is a simple plain thing; and as I said in the beginning of this Letter, it is level with the meanest capacity. I have often said, and I still insist upon it, that all the light that is in the world has come to us thro' the medium of the Bible; yes our modern boasters of knowledge and Infidels (who neither read nor hear the Bible) nevertheless derive all the sense and knowledge which they have, from it, tho' indirectly: otherwise they would have been as dark as Hottentots or the Indians in the American woods. Indeed I think the Indians are in a much safer state (acting according to their light) than many great men in England, who are rebelling against God, notwithstanding the light is shining full in their face, and diffused around them. — I agree with you in your views about Buonaparte and the chief Governors of your country. He will dupe them, and make them pay him or his armies, if he assists them. He has his Agents among them, no doubt. But our Governors ~~[illegible]~~ are blind too, and acting upon wrong principles, tho' they don't see it. Indeed, according to my views for 20 years, they, they have during this

whole war since the year 1792, been opposing or acting contrary to
the design of God, who is pulling down popery, superstition, injustice,
tyranny; and all kinds of arbitrary or undue power both in Church
and State. We are spending our money and losing thousands of men in de-
fence of Spain and Portugal, where such torrents of innocent blood were
shed by bigotry and cruelty of the Inquisition. This blood has long
been crying from the ground, and God is at length avenging it. — Now,
remember, — I say positively, tho' England should support those
countries for 50 years longer: it will avail nothing: They must
come down and be punished, if God be true, or if he adhere to his
declarations, or threatnings. I don't look at Buonaparte, but at
God, who can use any instrument he pleases in this or any other
work; and who can raise up another to-morrow, if Bu-
onaparte were dead. — If you can get a book written by Mr J.
Bicheno, M.A. a Dissenting Minister at Newbury, intitled
"the Restoration of the Jews, the Crisis of all Nations:" I think
it will give you much information. I did not read it till lately
tho' I had heard of this man many years ago. I had many Ideas long
ago, somewhat similar to his. — There will and must be revo-
lutions of some kind or other in all the nations of the world. The Governo-
and great men are all acting upon wrong principles, and according
to their own political views; and therefore it is easy to guess what
the event will be. But the people suffer thro' them. I think
our great folks here are as wicked and blind as any; tho' there
is much light and true religion in this land. You may live to see
a part of what I say come to pass. — There is no doubt of your
S. F—s sincerity and simplicity, and also your M: — and this is
another proof that people of weak capacities may notwithstand-
ing obtain and possess true religion. I am glad that you have such
good examples before you. But you will find many, who tho'
they can talk well, are not a credit to religion. However don't let
this stumble you. That word stands sure By their fruits ye
shall know them. Actions not words, demonstrate what men
are. Yet we should not be too hasty in judging of others, untill
we know the principles on which they act, or the motives which actu-
ates them: because they may mistake or act wrong from good motives.
Therefore we should always be examining ourselves, and studying
human nature: for man, when even partly renewed, is still prone
to evil and to depart from what is good. Therefore it is always best
to be constantly looking within ourselves to see what is passing
there every moment. I hope you will begin to study this subject
attentively: but you must always pray for light, and to be directed
in all things by Him that can not err, and will certainly guide
into all necessary Truth. The case of my Daughter H— is
distressing indeed; but I hope it will some way work together for
her good. Adversity indeed is very trying; yet the more I see of the
world, I know that prosperity is dangerous to thousands: few make

That old Book which contains the revealed will or Law of God has been wonderfully kept, amidst the convulsions of nations, by that people who are still a standing miracle to all nations, are diffused thro' all nations, by that people who and yet are a distinct people. Empires and people have vanished, or sunk into the common mass and disappeared: but these still exist. But you are puzzled about that word generation in the prediction of Christ in St. Mathew. Your definition of that word is imperfect. I have told you in my pamphlet (which you have) that the original greek word there signifies a race of men, a progeny, or descendants. The Jews are a race descended from Abraham, and they are still preserved, and will be so untill all shall be fulfilled; for a great many prophecies are not yet fulfilled, but some are fulfilling every day. Look at my pamphlet attentively again. You admit that the argument respecting the Jews is a weighty one, "if it can be proved the prediction was delivered before they were scattered." — It has all the proof that any thing of the kind can admit of. But this is an old cant objection against all prophecy. In July 1788, when I was at Dover looking over to France from a high Cliff, I wrote a piece of poetry (which I suppose you have) predicting the downfall of Lewis the king of France; which was inserted here in a public paper when I returned home. This was exactly a year before the revolution. Some people who saw it since, have thought it was written since that event took place; which is certainly not true. But when people are determined to be incredulous; it is only spending time to little purpose to strive with them; for, the old saying holds true — "Convince a man against his will, and he'll be of the same opinion still." — Yet I don't blame you or any man for making enquiries and starting objections, in order to be informed; provided they are not cavilling for contradiction sake. God uses few and simple causes to produce effects. If many causes were used, when a few would do; it would betray a want of wisdom. God revealed his will or Law to Adam; but his posterity gradually lost sight of it, or did not all adhere to it: he revealed it again to Moses, and caused it to be written and kept and handed down to succeeding ages. And as men are divided and speak such a variety of dialects; is it not necessary that each should have this law given to them in their own language: whereas by your mode of reasoning, God must work millions of millions of miracles every moment in the day and that in all nations and in every individual person in the world, to make a new revelation: and so he would use many causes, when a few would do. — I don't recollect now what I said in a former Letter about Samuel being raised and conversing with Saul. I have read some opinions on it many years ago, which I have forgot, some of them contradicted one another. I never saw what Brown says about it: but it is plain from the whole account and the conversation that passed, that it was really Samuel and not any spirit personating him, nor was he raised by the power of an evil Spirit, nor by the incantation of the woman, God overruled in this matter and condescended once more to warn Saul of the near approach of death. God could have done it in any other way, if he chose; but if some other living Prophet or man had told him or warned him, it is probable he would pay little attention to it: but he well knew that Samuel was faithful, for he had spoken plainly to him for not strictly obeying the commandment of God in the case of the

Amalekites. His making an excuse in keeping some things for Sacrifice was a mere pretext. God commanded; and it was his part to obey. God is a Sovereign, and has a right to punish or exterpate a whole nation, when, by persevering in a hardened rebellion and obstinancy, they have filled up the measure of their iniquity. He may do this by the Sword, the famine, pestilence, or any other instrument as he plases. It appears plain that the affair with the woman was different from any thing she had seen before; for she was alarmed when she saw a venerable old man in his mantle or outside robe, as he used to appear in. The word Gods (in our Translation) should have been in the singuler number: it is sometimes given to Magistrates or chief governors, on account of the veneration and honour which is due to them. Samuel held this office before Saul was chosen to be king. Such were several before Samuel, who were called Judges; who were vice-gerents under God. The Jewish State even then was not properly a Democracy; for God was their king. (Compare Judges 8. 23. 1 Sam: 8. 7.—1 Sam: 12. 12.) Tho' Payne forgot this when he talked about a common-wealth, and quoted the State of the Jews under the Judges: but when he wrote against the whole Bible, he overturned his own argument which he had drawn from it. On this thousands rejected his tenents, who had before adopted some of his political sentiments. But his name is not worth mentioning; he only retailed what had been said before him by abler hands, and dressed it up anew to suit the vulger herd.—But ten thousand thousand questions might be put to Deists upon their own principles, not one of which any of them can answer. It is very easy to ask questions which even a wise man cannot answer. Young children have often puzzled their parents by asking questions. The account about Saul and the woman at Endor is but short. I have not time or strength now to consult other writers: I only offer a few conjectures at present. I don't think any of her words or charms had any influence in this case: and the remonstrance of Samuel with Saul is in his own proper character: an evil Spirit could not speak thus; nor did God need an evil Spirit on this occasion: he could have spoken to him by a loud voice as he did to Moses and the Israelites at mount Sinai; but as I said above, he condescended thus once more to warn him in the way that Saul himself wished. God sometimes condescends to the weakness of men.— This brings to my mind a circumstance, which tho' not exactly similer, is somewhat to the point of God's condescension. About 30 years ago I went to bathe at the sea near Ballyshannon. I slept one night on the way in a little village in the midst of mountains, where the Methodists had begun to preach. The man at whose house I slept had been very wicked and at the head of all the riots &c in the place; and was the first that was converted, and became very zealous. His father had died about two years before the preachers came there. This man began to mourn day and night abought his father that he had not lived to hear these preachers; and was afraid that his father was not happy. At length one night his father appeared to him in bed, and spoke to him "Son, why do you mourn for me? you know that during my sickness I was constantly reading the Bible and was earnestly praying; and before I departed, God sanctified me

consider it attentively. It has no reference to his moral character, either good or bad; but to his military character. Jehu likewise (who was a bad man) acted according to God's mind, in destroying the worship of Baal, I look upon Buonaparte exactly in the same light at this time, who is an instrument in pulling down the Romish Church with its idolatry and absurd trumpery. The king of Assyria was a rod or scourge in like manner in the hand of God, who chastises nations as well as individuals. I think David was pious in his youth, when he was in an humble sphere: but in a state of prosperity and grandeur, there is always danger: therefore thro' unwatchfulness, he gave way to wrong desire, and fell into the most abominable sin, or a double and aggravated sin; and had he died then, he would have certainly gone to hell. He repented, and that not only for that sin, but for the depravity of human nature; his language is pathetic and moving arising from a conciousness of guilt and of his own helplessness; (see Psalm 51.) How long he was in distress, or a state of repentance, we can not tell, as the account is short. But this account is impartially recorded for the admonition of all succeeding generations; that they who stand, or are confident, may take heed lest they fall. I do not see that it was improper for David to take the woman to wife, when the man was dead, and do her all the justice he could after he had debauched her. If he had acted otherwise, his own subjects and the ungodly would have reproached him as long as he lived. They who pretend to say that he fell foully, but not finally, dishonour God, and throw a stumbling block in the way of thousands to hurl them to perdition. From such Teachers may God deliver all my friends; for such doctrine was breached in the bottomless pit. You are stumbled at many things. I don't wonder at it. But you have chiefly read on one side of the question; and have not seen or read the various answers given at different times and by different persons to the objectors against Christianity. These objectors take their views from the depraved wicked persons or bodies of people who assumed the name, ~~of Christians~~, but had nothing of the spirit of Christianity. When some kings or great men professed to turn Christians they would compell their subjects by force of arms to do so too. When the Church of Rome degenerated into superstition and various errors; she would compel all by fire & faggot to conform to her decrees, and modes of worship: but common sense will suggest that this can not be consistant with religion, or the mind of a just and holy God. Therefore the reasoning of Voltaire, Hume, Gibbon, Volney, Payne, and such like, is all futile and of no weight; because it proceeds upon a wrong ground. It is bad logic to reason against the thing itself, from the abuse of it. There never was an institution, however good, that has not been abused. When Constantine the great professed himself a Christian; he heaped upon the ministers and others both riches and honours; and ~~such~~ ~~like~~ by this means hurt true religion (tho' he did not intend it) more than all the pagan Emperors who had persecuted the Christians. Indeed riches and ease and a calm are very pleasing to human nature; but they were always dangerous both to individuals and the whole Churches. It is true, that poverty is very distressing; but upon the whole it is the safest, if the person or persons will learn to cry to God, and implore his support in the trying hour. He has done wonders, and still does in supporting thousands in a miraculous manner. Yet I would not have any to trust in their poverty thinking it meritorious or that it will save them. Whether they are rich or poor in temporal things, all must become poor in spirit

before they will be accepted of God or become happy. There are thousands of
persons in this land and in other places whose conduct is a reproach even
to pagan morality; but the Truth is diffusing thro' all parts of the world,
and true religion will spread too. Many Societies have been formed
of late to print the Bible in most languages, and send it to remote
regions. Many of our Nobility and Gentry are at the head of these
Societies; — But you are still stumbled about translations and
translators. You say — "You are commanded to believe our Translation
on pain of endless misery." — Who says so? — I never heard or read of
the like before. Whether the Translation be accurate or not, we do not
make the reading it or believing in it a criterion of salvation. We say
that our English translation is upon the whole a very good one, accord-
ing to the state of our language when it was made, but I and some others
think that some particular words might be rendered better; but this
is no objection against the whole. The same may be said of other
Translations into various languages. Suppose you were to give a co-
py of this my Letter to some person, and he to another and another
many years hence; and these who copy should in a hurry miss some
letters, or stops; is this any objection to the authenticity of this Letter,
that it was not written by me? It is difficult and a nice point to trans-
late out of any one language into another; so as to render word for word.
But the original Bible is still in being and will be studied now
more than ever. It has been safely kept by the Jews, tho' it records
their bad conduct. And the fame of it had reached the ears of Ptolomy a
king of Egypt, so that he ordered it to be translated into Greek (which was
then a very common language) and this was done many hundred years
before the birth of Christ; and by means of it much light was spread through
the states of Greece and afterward thro' the Roman Empire as I have
shewn in a pamphlet which I published some years ago. But you ask —
"cannot God communicate his will and laws to every man's own mind?"
yes: — and he has done so, if you will believe St. Paul: (Rom: 2.15.) the
law is written upon the hearts of all men; their conscience either condemn-
ing or excusing them. And St. Peter saith (Acts 10. 35.) In every nation
he that feareth God and practises righteousness, is accepted. But ob-
serve they must fear God, and practise righteousness, according to the light
they have: and if they do this, they will obtain more and more light and
divine power to keep the Law. This was the case with Cornelius, who had
been a heathen. I wish that our great men who call themselves philo-
sophers and think highly of ~~themselves~~ their knowledge, would act as
uprightly and ~~devoutly~~ worthy as Cornelius did. See what I have said on this point
in my pocket letter which I addressed to Dr. Clarke and some little notes
at the bottom of the page. God has a witness in every man's breast: but
men resist the checks of conscience, untill they become callous &
then go on daringly to provoke the Almighty, untill at length he is
obliged to make a dreadful example of them. No one will be condem-
ned for what he could not possibly know; but if he had the means
or opportunity to know, and did not use his best endeavours, and
the means which were within his power; ~~then~~ he is justly con-
demned ~~and~~ according to common sense. Therefore it is said This
is the condemnation that light is come into the world; and men love
darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil.

[illegible] they would be no better; for when one neighbour would shew or lend his Bible to another, the other might say, I doubt whether yours be a genuine one; and so on, without end. There are many vari=ations in heathen Authors, in some words, because coming thro' va=rious transcribers in different ages: but all this passes without notice. The old Testament has been scrupulously kept and and tran=scribed by the Jews. The New Testament is as it were a comment upon the old; for they both agree: and the religion designed by both is the same. These writings were written at very different times, and by different persons, who could not possibly converse with each other, or combine in contriving a fraud. Tho.s Paine is obliged to confess this: and when the Evangelists in writing the same historical e-vents, vary a little in some smaller circumstances, but agree as to the substance; this is one proof that they did not combine together. This is not the case with Mahamet: he picked out some parts from the Jewish writings, and some from the Christians, dressing them up in his own way, and mingling ten thousand absurdities and ridicu-lous lies, to impose upon the credulous to receive them. The Bible is discussing and examining more than ever; and so much the better. The more the Truth is discussed, the better it will be establish=ed. Even from opposition Truth is struck out, as sparks from the flint when it is struck by the steel. — I would wish to contribute my mite to satisfy your scruples, and every other sincere person. But I desire you not to take my word or that of any other man, without ex-amining for yourself: and follow the above direction in private prayer; and your own experience will be more convincing to you than all that any man can tell you; and I trust when you have attained the Truth, you will be the better able to defend it against others; and will be more confirmed in it, after having had scruples and doubts yourself. I have not room in a letter, nor strength to say what I would wish. Indeed when I began this letter, I did not think I should be able to fill the paper: but it may ~~be~~ be my last; and I give you my real sentiments, as it were with my last breath. I hope when you read Dr Clarke's Notes he will satisfy you in ma-ny things which you wish to know. That there has been what is called witchcraft in antient times I can not deny; neither do I doubt but there has been such in later times, and may be so again when and where GOD permits the powers of darkness to prevail for a time: but he at length takes to himself the victory, after let-ing them try their strength: and he will in the end subdue all adverse powers. Why he permits ~~the powers of darkness to prevail~~ for a them win for a time may be difficult for man to comprehend; tho' much might be said upon that head. But what can any created being comprehend of GOD, any farther than he is pleased to reveal himself? —

None can comprehend him but himself. Yet he does reveal his will, and will reveal it more and more to all eternity. As to the time that the powers of darkness seem to prevail over sublunary things, it is very short indeed: for what is a thousand or ten thousand years to the time of Eternity? Many stories of witches and apparitions I have looked upon as ridiculous and untrue: but this does not prove that there have never been such things, or may be again. I think God overruled, in the case of the woman at Endor. It was not by her power or incantation that Samuel was raised. This appears plain from her own words, and her being frightened: for the scene was different from any thing she had ever seen before, when she used incantation. God, not at her desire nor power, condescended to warn this king once more of his approaching end, and of his losing the kingdom because he had transgressed the express divine command; and as nothing else seems to have satisfied Saul in this instance God gives him another warning, and consequently a space of time for repentance before death: and it appears that Saul became then a true penitent. God also overruled in an extraordinary way in the case of Balaam; and in some other instances. I don't say that any thing I can advance will convince any man; at least if he be still given to scepticism; nor have I said here one thousandth part of what I could say, had I strength and time. Some people say they will not believe any thing which they do not comprehend. Then I reply you will believe nothing, not even your own existence: for I insist upon it that no man on earth comprehends himself, or how his body and spirit are united; or how Ideas are formed and retained in the brain or mind. Can any one tell me how a plant grows, or why it differs from what we call a stone, or some other object around? Why he tells me one is soft, and the other is hard: but I am still where I was. I comprehend it not. And can I comprehend Him who spoke these and all other things into being? See Job, 11. 7.

I have given my opinion in print some years ago, concerning that passage in Matthew (to which you allude) to in a pamphlet on the Wisdom of Solomon, page 45. The word rendered _generation_, signifies also _a race_ or progeny of people. In this sense I understand it here. The race of the Jews are not yet extinct, nor will they be untill the consummation of all things, that is, the end of this dispensation; tho' they are scattered every where, yet they still subsist as a distinct people. Nothing like this has ever happened in the world: for nations and Empires have fallen, have undergone revolutions, and their names are almost forgotten. Some have adduced the Chinese; but there is no similarity between them and the Jews. They are not scattered as a people among all nations; and yet a distinct generation or race of men. This argument for the confirmation of the prophecy of the Bible has never been got over by

and if they come afterwards to see any thing on the other side, they only look at it carelessly, or glance it over with a jaundiced eye. It is impossible to convince any man against his will; who is already predetermined in his mind. In the next place, I would recommend them to pause a moment, and say "It is possible I may be wrong." Then let them in earnest supplicate ~~their~~ their Creator, according to their abilities, to this purport. "O thou fountain of all wisdom, and the source of all good: thou seest and thou knowest me in my present critical situation: suffer me not to deceive myself, or be deceived by others: guide me in my ~~present~~ into thy truth, and lead me in that way which tends to everlasting happiness!" — I am certain that whoever sincerely, fervently, and perseveringly takes this method, will assuredly be brought to a knowledge of the truth. It must be so, if we for a moment reflect on the nature and attributes of GOD. He cannot suffer a sincere soul that is thus seeking, to continue in error. Therefore he saith by one of the prophets — Ye shall seek me and find me, when ye search for me with all your heart. He should use other means at the same time: he should read, and meditate, and pray, and sometimes converse with the most pious that he can find. Some of the words of Alexr. Pope in his universal prayer, are — "If I am wrong, O teach my feet to find that better way!" — I used this method myself, and found the benefit of it. I had for ~~many~~ years been praying to GOD, that if I was wrong, he would set me right, or enlighten my darkness. This prayer was at length answered, about Novr. 1776, while I was reading a religious Latin book that had been written about a century before. I then sought in earnest for internal religion, according to GOD's own way and plan, and obtained it in about six weeks afterwards, or Decr. the 11th at six o'clock in the morning, after I had awaked out of a remarkable dream. This account is printed in the Arminn. Magazine for May 1785. A person may believe the authenticity of the Scriptures, and every tittle contained in them: he may also have the Theory of the Christian religion in his head, and hold sound doctrine, and yet not have attained unto religion, as above defined. And I fear many are stopping short of it, because they have been bred up in it, or because they adhere to the opinion of their ancestors, No parent can convey it to his child, except by advice, and prayer, and instruction: every individual must seek it for himself. It is level to the meanest capacity; and very frequently illiterate simple-hearted persons obtain it sooner than the learned, and those who are wise in their own sight. St. Paul speaks to the same purport in his first Ep: to the Corinths. 1. 21. 27, 28, and also Chap: 2. 14. and when he conversed with some of the wisest men at Athens, they did not understand him, and therefore most of them mocked him; but a few who heard more calmly, adhered to him. With respect to the Bible, much has been said and written against

it in all ages; yet it is not yet destroyed: nay, it is now printing and diffused more than ever throughout most parts of the world in various languages. There is a Society formed here for this purpose, who are very liberal; for persons of different Sects and of different nations are all united in one design. Similar Societies are formed in various places, and in various nations connected with this. They hold their annual meeting on the 1st of May. It was delightful to hear different persons speak some Noblemen, members of Parlt — Bishops, Clergymen, Dissenting ministers, and others, all agreeing in one aim. They expended 28 thousand pounds the last year in this work. It seems that Thos. Paine and others before him, have been the means of doing good, tho' they did not intend it; for the Bible is likely to be diffused now more than ever, and more than we could have expected. But if it was written by the direction or superintendance of GOD; he must and will defend his own Truth. Therefore when I read Paine's Age of reason, I was not the least moved, for I knew full well that GOD will support his own Cause, and gain a complete conquest in the end. Paine only picked up scraps from other writers, and put them together in a dress suited to vulgar minds. Poor creature, he pretends to talk about philosophy and science; of which he knew almost nothing. You seem to have imbibed most of your objections from him & such like writers: but you either have not seen or have not read thousands of answers which have been made to gainsayers in every age. Your objection to the Title page of our English Bible, is frivolous and exceedingly weak. Suppose you were to hand this Letter of mine to some person, and he takes a copy of it, and after some time another takes a copy from that, and so on. It may be that they omitted some of the stops, or sometimes in their hurry left out a single letter in some places: does this prove that the letter was not written by me? Does not the substance of it still remain, after I am dead and gone? You do not seem to understand the word revise. When I revised Shuckford, I altered stops, and improved it in other respects; but I made it a point to retain all his Ideas, and not to alter the sense. The objection that the Bible was not written in English at first is so weak, that it deserves no answer. Mr Gibbon, Hume, & others will translate from Latin or other Authors several speeches and other materials to form a history in the English language: and this is received without any scruple: and as it is written in elegant language, and poison is artfully infused thro' it, the unwary reader is infected before he is aware. But what is the reason that these men and thousands of others hate the Bible? the true cause is, because it condemns them and is opposed to their evil propensities and wrong tempers: because it describes the depravity of their nature, and assigns the true origin and cause of it. Must GOD send an Angel to write a new Bible every day or every year, and for every single person in every nation?

knowledge of human nature in its present state; and to acquire this, we must get well acquainted with our own hearts, and observe closely and impartially what passes thro' our own minds from day to day. ~~today~~ The Psalmist saith, (Ps: 36. 1.) my heart sheweth me the wickedness of the ungodly. When we understand human nature well, we shall not wonder at any thing which we see or hear of coming to pass among mankind. In order to attain this knowledge, I would recommend it to every one to be constantly praying or crying in secret to that Being who created all things, and must know what is in man, to make us acquainted with ourselves. It was a constant word in the mouth of one of the wise men of Greece, "Know thyself." A man will never become truly wise, untill he begins to suspect himself a fool, —— Another of the wise men of Greece was esteemed by the rest as the wisest of them. For a long time he would not admit it; but at length he said, "I believe I am; for I find that I know nothing". We may know a great deal here even in this short life, yet they who know most, know but in part; it is, comparatively, nothing in respect to what is still to be attained. In the present state of things, we are only in the infancy of being: yet it is our duty and our wisdom to acquire all the useful knowledge we can, and then to improve it still both to our own advantage and that of others. Many who have strong natural abilities, have employ'd their knowledge in cheating, defrauding, and imposing upon the ignorent and unwary. Some, when they have got a little more knowledge than their neighbours get conceited immediately, and begin to think they know every thing. Pope says "A little learning is a dangerous thing." It is a great thing when knowledge encreases, to retain simplicity and humility at the same time; because knowledge has a natural tendency to puff up: but a true knowledge of human nature and our selves (as before observed) will always tend to keep us humble; because we remember that any good which we have acquired we have received it from the fountain of wisdom, the source from which every good flows, and freely flows to the children of men. I commend you for examining things for yourself, and expressing your doubts freely. I would have every man to be fully convinced in his own mind; and not to rely merely upon the judgment of another. Yet we should calmly pay some deference to the opinion of others, at the same time that we are endeavouring to make the best use of our mental powers. But here we should be very jealous of ourselves, lest our mind should have already taken a wrong bias: because I know that many pretend to be enquiring after truth when at the same time ~~wanting to cavil, not to be truly informed,~~ they are already prejudiced; and only propose questions in order to cavil, not to be truly informed.

this was the case with the Scribes and Pharisees, who were proud of their know-ledge, in proposing questions to Christ: but he soon confounded them, and put them to silence. Many questions may be proposed by the most ignorant which the wisest man upon earth cannot answer. And some pass over thousands of things which are plain and easy, and of great importance, yet puzzle themselves and dwell upon little things, or what perhaps would be of little importance, even if they did know them. This present time is by some called the "Age of Reason." It may likewise be termed the age of Scepticism and Infidelity. It is very natural indeed to run from Superstition to the opposite extreme, of Scepticism. And I do not at all wonder that the people of France (especially the most shrewd and intelligent of them) became confirmed Infidels, after looking at the conduct of the priests, and mummery which had disgraced the Christian Church. And it will be the same by and by in Spain, Italy, and elsewhere. But, in the worst of times, there always was, and always will be, a remnant who serve God in sincerity and truth. Yet the Infidels look over these or if they do notice them, they affix some mark of contempt: they call them enthusiasts, fanatics pietists &c &c. We should not judge of men by their words, but by their general conduct. It is the best way, and indeed the most easy and natural, to judge of the tree by the fruits. — But you and many others are puzzled, amidst a variety of opinions, to know which is the best to embrace. There is a common and vulgar saying: — "There are various religions." They who use this phrase, betray their ignorance. There never was, nor is there now, but one Religion. But there have been, and still are, various opinions about it, and the mode of attaining it. I find that persons who hold different opinions, or at least differed in their mode of speaking, when they came to understand each other better, they came to find that they both were possessed of the thing; they agreed as to what was essential. But it may be asked, "what is religion?" — The shortest answer, and definition that I have heard, to this, is: "The life of God in the soul of man"; or a divine principle imparted and implanted in the human soul. When persons really experience and feel this; they will not contend about words or little circumstances; for they may still differ in their phrases, tho' they are united to one centre, and consequently to each other. But still, a sincere enquirer (as I hope you are) may be ready to ask, amidst such a variety of opinions, how shall I determine where to fix? this, indeed is a very difficult matter to an inexperienced person. But I would recommend it to such, in the first place, to see that they are truly divested of prejudice: for perhaps they are already biassed on the wrong side, tho' they don't think so. It is not so easy a matter to get rid of old prejudices: and whilst these remain, they form a thick cloud about the mind to prevent the rays of Truth to enter. Some read only on one side of the question: so that they get a bias that way;

11 The seat of innocence, and sacred joy,
Some called another Eden here below:
But Death all earthly comforts can destroy,
And fill our paradise with real woe!

12 The garden crowned with fruitful trees, and flowers,
Where oft we offered incense to our King;
The pensive mourners shelter in its bowers,
Where groans and sighs, and lamentations ring.

13 Ye strangers to the sovereign power of love,
Charge not with guilt the sympathizing grief.
Jesus who fills with joy the hosts above,
Wept while he brought his wretched friends relief.

14 Mourn without murmuring, ye sons of God,
And call forth Salem's daughters to your aid:
She who walked foremost in the heavenly road,
Bewail her numbered with the silent dead.

15 Beneath the weight our fainting spirits bend,
As in the dust we lay her bones to rest:
But O, what joy when Israel's steeds ascend,
And God pronounces her for ever blest!

16 Welcome He cries, my chaste, my spotless bride!
Now take possession of thy native home:
Behold thy mansion near my wounded side;
Enter my joy, and share my glorious throne.

17 Well done thou good and faithful servant,— now!
Wear these white robes of righteousness divine:
This sparkling wreath shall grace thy cloudless brow;
And all I have and am be ever thine.

18 Yes, central glories, never setting beams
On our dear friend direct their brightest rays!
And love and joy, in overflowing streams,
Fill all her powers with heaven's eternal praise.

19 The mutual love that made our spirits one,
(A knot which death itself can ne'er untie)
Says, we shall meet again before his throne,
And cherish friendship that can never die.

20 This blooming hope outlasts my ebbing grief;
Since by these tears shall soon be wiped away;
This brings to comfortless mourner's sure relief,
Who looks to find her in eternal day!

A letter from the Revd. Js. Creighton
to a friend — in answer to some enquiries.

Dear N.

I have recd. your Letter of the 20th of March, and lose no time in acknowledging it, as my feeble frame is so shaken of late that I can scarcely expect to continue many days or weeks longer here. I shall attend to your directions respecting the Books and the money &c. &c. — We are much oppressed here by taxes, and other effects of the war: but they are still worse in Ireland, for the have nothing to work upon, or make out their rents and the great folks come to reside here, and consequently draw the money from Ireland which ought to be spent there. The papists there are still unsettled wanting more privileges. &c — —
I fear blood will be shed there sooner or later. I fear matters are not likely to be compromised between your States and this Country. No doubt the French have their emissaries among you, blowing up the flame of discord: and it is not unlikely that your States will in time divide among themselves. Whoever will read with attention the rise and fall of nations, may be able to discern what will happen in the present day; because the same cause will always produce the same effect. About 3 years ago I read a sensible Book on this subject, by a Mr. Playfaire, a scotch man, entitled the causes of the decline and fall of wealthy nations. Wealth brings luxery, luxery brings on effeminacy and delicate living: this is the sure forerunner of ruin and misery in nations, in families, and in individuals. I hope to have the first part of Clerks Bible for you in about six weeks, if an oppertunity offers to send it to you with the others. I hope you will like it, and that it will remove some of your doubts concerning many things; as I think it will be the best and most useful Comment that has appeared in our language.

I approve much of your getting and reading books: much knowledge may be acquired from them. But some read much and yet are little the better, or do not make the best use of what they read, and sometimes they make a bad use of it. Much knowledge also may be acquired from observing men and things, whilst we travel on thro' life; ~~that~~ and making serious reflections on what we see and hear of coming to pass. One kind of knowledge, if acquired and duly improved, will be of the utmost importance, and usefulness thro' Life; That is a

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Promises for the poor and helpless.

Psalm, 9. 18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever. Psal: 12. 5.

For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the Lord; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.

Psal: 72. 12 For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. —

Zechariah 14. 7. But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day nor night: but it shall come to pass that at evening time it shall be light. — Mercy shall break forth, when little expected: They shall have a morning of mercy, in their evening of difficulties. — There was a great tempest in the sea: the Disciples were in great danger: they come to Christ: he commands a calm. Distress brings on examination, and self-condemnation. Where no help appears, men are driven to God: See Psal. 142. 4. 5. — Micah 7. 7.

Extremities call forth our prayers to God.

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American Sun[day] School Union Depository
No 13 N fourth st —

An Elegy on the Death of Mrs Margret Johnston late of Lif[...]

1 So long as vital blood glides through my vains,
Or with the saints I keep my happy lot;
If gratitude inspires celestial strains
This dear loved name can never be forgot.

2 Her real worth out-lives her mouldering frame
And shall not mingle with forgotten dust;
When dying worlds are all consumed in flame,
Her deathless name is written with the Just.

3 An only child, as Isaac, much beloved,
While Nature's charms were opening to the sight;
The kindest care of heaven and earth she proved,
And sought, and found in GOD supreme delight.

4 Her heaven-born soul was early taught to rise,
Where mingling sweets in boundless rivers flow;
Where strife, with earth-born pain and sorrow dies,
And blissful fruit in endless progress grow.

5 Though Fortune strawed her path with sweetest flowers,
And Pleasure strove to attract her soaring mind;
She did not dare to waste her flying hours,
Nor forfeit bliss by heavenly love designed.

6 Meekness, and Modesty, and sacred Love,
Liv'd in her looks, and decked her blooming face.
She seemed, as sent from some bright throne above,
To shew the beauties of her saviour's grace.

7 Indulgent Heaven inspired her tender heart,
With more than common pity for the poor:
The steward of her Lord did freely part
With what she freely had received before.

8 Behold the maimed, the halt, the lame, the blind,
Feast on her stores, and bless her as they go;
To friends and foes, and helpless strangers kind,
She lessoned or removed their every woe.

9 Preparing to rebuild* her mouldering walls,
The welcome Messenger of Death drew nigh;
The mortal body into ruin falls
And lets the soul to brighter regions fly!

10 Now rising floods of grief glides through the Vale,
Where many a monument of woe is seen
Lamenting after her, they lov'd so well,
With many a tear bedew the mournful green:

* She was looking at the workmen pulling down part of her house, in order to rebuild it when seized with her last illness.

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WIII [illegible]

Writing changes here -
next writing starts at back
of book and comes to this
page.

My dear Sister London Sep.r 22: 1808

I have lately rec.d your Letter dated Aug.t My wife and daughter are returned safe from Ireland where they had been for three months. They are much better for it, and I hope it has been of great use to them in many respects. My wife was glad to get away with her life. She gives a shocking acc.t of the people there, and says they are changed much for the worse since she left there &c. I am glad she went, as she will be more thankful and resigned to her lot. We suffer, and trade thro' war, and our taxes are great; but we enjoy many mercies, which other countries are deborred of. Tho' long threatened, the enemy has not been permitted to invade us hitherto. There has lately been a great contest in Spain, and I expect much blood will be spilt yet. We have sent troops there to assist the Spaniards against the French. It is very likely you will have a share of the troubles of the present day; for the French have their Agents among you to stir up your States against the English. Your President also, I hear is inclined that way. It is plain that there is no country free from troubles and calamities of some kind. A few days ago, a dreadful fire consumed one of the play houses here, and several more near it. Many lives have been lost, and many are supposed to be still lying in the ruins. Yet the people do not take warning by these things. They talk of beginning to build up this Theatre again soon. Such is the state of the world from generation to generation. My son is going on pretty well he has to work very hard from five in the morning to seven in the evening in summer: & from six to six in the winter half year. People are the better to have some hardships in their youth. They can bear more in old age. Tell your son not to be stumbled at the improper conduct of individuals: for human nature is the same in every age, and in every clime: and we can not stand a moment, but by the assistance and the power of God. Our Uncle W— B— was living some time ago, aged 90, and his wife. He is very miserable, tho' had a great deal of money, was always cursedly covetous.— I can in a great measure trust God with myself & family. I hope Mrs H— will learn experience by the things she is suffering, and has suffered. I doubt not but you will pray for us all: and I hope we shall all meet at last in the havan of rest.— Farewell— J. C.

My dear Sister Oct.r 22. 1808

I take the opportunity of a ship about to sail shortly to your City to write you a few lines. I believe I wrote since my wife & Daug.r returned from Ire.d. They were much the better for going there. We are like to have a severe winter; at least it sets in very early. It has brought on my cough with an amazing quantity of phlegm much sooner than ~~I expected~~ usual; so that I must expect more affliction.— The wars in Europe seem to go on more fierce than ever. The Lord is pouring out the vials upon the nations. I expect there will be much blood spilt in Spain. The old King of Spain with his queen and son were inveigled into France, under some pretext, and are kept there as a sort of prisoners. Buonap.e sent one of his brothers to Spain to be King: but the Span.ds rejected him and took up arms &c &c. I said many years ago, that I believed there would be more and greater wars than ever in the earth; and I think so still. God has a great work to do on the earth; and the wicked will be swept off by one means or other; and a remnant will be preserved, untill his own kingdom is established: but Oh! who shall live then, when God does this? I have long thought that the time is much farther off than many are aware off: tho' God can do much in a short time.

Our friends in Ireland are suffering in various ways, and I expect they will always be so. Perhaps it is so best. I see more and more that very few can bear prosperity: but it is impossible to persuade young people to believe this, untill they learn it by dear bought experience. R— is not only afflicted in body in an extraordinary way; but his mind is harrassed in various ways. He is oppressed much by numbers who call on their way to and fro.— The beggars also are innumerable every day. his wife is much oppressed by them. The people of that country are grown more wicked than they were. My wife perceived a change for the worse since we left it. I fear that country will get another scourge. There was some risings of whiteboys again. The papists are still dissatisfied, and want more priveleges from the Government; yet I think they have as much as they ought; for the more they get, the worse they grow.—

Methodism is rather in a state of outward prosperity in this kingdom: but whether religion is increasing in proportion I am not sure. Our Conference have ordered 129 chapels to be built this year; and fifty or sixty have been built or ordered every year for ten or twelve years past. They have lately built two very large chapels here, and two or three more are proposed. The expence is immence, for the materials are raised very much by the war.

Remember me to all friends in your parts. Strive to write to me if you can; pray for us all, and for your affect.e brother— J. C—

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a right use of it, or consider that they are only stewards of God to distribute superfluities, or what they do not need. Had H—e been in prosperity, he could not bear it, but would be tenfold worse even than he is. Therefore I am striving to hope against hope. I have resigned my daughter long ago to God: and trust he will in some way take care of her. She wrote lately to her Bro.r I have been much afflicted for two months past; and am worn to such a degree that it is wonderful how I hold out.— I have endeavoured to scribble this in great simplicity, and with sincerity (as you are well convinced) It will at least appear to you at a future day as a token of regard.— May you and your dear [illegible] and all our dear friends, meet in a better world, to rejoice tog[illegible] & part no more.— Farewell!— Yours affec— J. C

to hear any thing like Gospel; so far it is well, we must hope that some good is do-
ing: and as to the internal work, we must leave that to the searcher of hearts. Our
preachers in general preach excellent well; and are much more learned than
about forty or fifty years ago. Our Superintendant here, Mr. C— e, is a ve-
ry extraordinary man, for learning, &c. I have been intimate with him up-
wards of twenty years. Many of the great folks in the kingdom and some in
the Colleges of Scotland and elsewhere are paying him very great honours, and
writing him letters of thanks for several works which he has printed. I
believe he will be employed soon to carry on some difficult work, which the
Government want to be printed; and they can hardly get any fit to conduct it. He
is just printing a most learned Discourse upon the nature and design of the Sa-
crament. He preached it at our great Chapel about three months ago; & was reques-
ted to print it. I gave him some hints since and he has enlarged it much more
than what he preached. I gave him a hint to be watchful and humble, whilst
so many honours are heaping upon him. I trust he will be preserved, as I
have long known his turn of mind: but it would overturn many with pride.
They who only know a little are generally the most conceited; but a truly learned
man, if he has got religion the more he knows, the more he is convinced how
little he knows, and indeed how little all the wise and learned in the world put
together know, whilst they are in bodies of clay. However, men differ in intellect, al-
most to infinity, some are but little above the brute creation; others are very
near or like Angels. Notwithstanding my infirmities & weakness, I am now engaged
in a work of printing, which takes my whole time and is very fatiguing; as I am at it
sometimes before day, and untill late at night. One is my own, a Dictionary of the
proper names in the scripture; to which I was urged again and again four years ago
by a local preacher. I mean to leave it to the preachers, after this Edition is sold. I have
in many things been led or dragg'd into things against my will. and have at length
consented, thinking that perhaps it was the will of God.— The other is likewise a
a tiresome work, which I am doing for a Bookseller. It is in four Volumes, Octo,
written about [illegible] years ago; and this man is reprinting it. As our language is
much altered and improved since that time, I have to change many words, put in
some, and leave out many which is needless. I also alter the style, &c &c &c. to make
it more intelligable. This I do first, before it goes to the Press; then I have to correct
the Press. It was a printing last summer. but a fire consumed it and much
more and all the houses near it. Mr Clarke had the care of it then; but as he has
too many other things upon his hands, he pressed me to undertake this.—
There is a Society formed here a few years ago, of great folks, some Bishops, and others,
who are printing the Bible in various languages and sending it into different parts
of the world. Mr C— belongs to this society; and they made a request last year to
our Conference to let him stop here another year, to assist them in this work. But some
writers (who seem to be actuated by satan) are striving to oppose this good work. Some
of them have addressed pamphlets to our Governt to suppress the Missions in the
East Indias, and to let the heathen remain in their own religion; for, that if we attempt
to change their religion; they will all rebel, or not submit to our Governt there.
Such is the reasoning of carnal men; who can look at nothing but temporal things.
But God is raising up men, even among the Great to defend and promote his own cause:
and Light shall spread, notwithstanding all the opposition from the Prince of Dark-
ness or his agents. Popery is losing ground fast on the Continent; tho' it will be long be-
fore ~~that~~ it is entirely eradicated. Buonaparte is giving leave to the priests to marry
if they will. He commands even the Pope himself; and dictates to all the kings of Eu-
rope except ours, who are obliged to obey his nod. This age is a day of the flight of
kings. The royal family of Portugal and their friends fled to South America, where
they had possessions: and the French have taken possession of Portugal.—
The Turkish Empire is tottering: & must soon fall. As popery and Mahom-
madism rose soon after ~~the~~ one another, so they must fall one after the other.—

I look upon Buonoparte as an Instrument in the hand of God, in bringing about much
of what he intends to do in the earth. He has acted so in ages past, by men who did not know
him, and did not know what they were doing. Such was the king of Assyria. I am more and
more convinced in the truth of the prophesies, which are fulfilling every day, if men would
look at them. I entirely agree with you in that sentiment, that "our Trials and afflictions
will some way turn out for our good, if we believe that Providence directs and governs our
affairs; and if we are resigned and patiently endure whatever comes upon us." — I trust
I have a measure of this resignation; and nothing is better than our own experience to
see the dealings of GOD with us. If we reflect and look back, we have no cause to mur-
mer, but rather to be thankful that we are not punished one hundredth part as we de-
served. His dealings are all mercy, yea free mercy. — My general experience
has not been joy or raptures; but rather of a rational, and I trust, a solid and well
grounded hope. At some particular times I have had what is termed "the overwhelm-
ing power of GOD." — This was the case for a week at Christ^o. 1700 after I had endured a
very severe trial. I could hardly speak, but just to my wife that I was happy in a
very wonderful way. — My dear Sister, Farewell! Meet me in spirit daily, un-
till we meet above to part no more. — Amen: —

J. C.

My dear sister

London May 25th 1808

I rec^d your letter dated Jany last. I am still suffering in the body.
I was rather better in March, when it was cold: but in the first week of May we had
sudden and extraordinary heat. The next week was cold rain. These sudden changes
tries my poor frame very much: and I caught cold, and have been very ill since;
and am very weak whilst I attempt to write this. I have had great labour & fatigue
for upwards of six months with printing business. I mentioned these things to
you before. To this bodily labour has been added the greatest exercise of mind,
on many accounts. We have had a long dreary, and trying Winter & Spring to
me and my family. — My wife and elder daughter have been nearly as bad
as myself, with a most violent convulsive cough. They have been so the most
part of 2 years past, I parted with them yesterday, to go for a few months to Ireland,
to try what a change of air may do. I expect it will be of great use to them in many
respects. What is life without a little health! It is a long and expensive jour-
ney; but if it tends to their good, it will be well. R— is still suffering much
in the body, and greatly exercised in mind on many accounts. But the Lord strengthens
him by support; God has interfered in his behalf; respecting those who wanted to
get roads thro' his land; they have hitherto been defeated in their purpose. The
will was thrown out last year. The Bishop has run himself in debt by extrava-
gance, and is breaking up house, coming away to some part of England for a
while. The Preacher was taken ill and obliged to go to Dublin to consult
physicians and I know not his present state. You will help to join us in
praising the GOD of mercy, who doth wonders. — He says he has learned much
from this affair, that when we can wholly resign our will to GOD, he will do what
he sees best. It is in vain to fly from crosses, for GOD is about to shake terribly
the earth. The French are manifestly the instruments in the hand of GOD,
to bring about his purposes: and tho much evil and great afflictions have come
upon the nations of Europe in our day I firmly believe it is all working for good
in the end. Popery is falling, and will I expect, be wholly done away, perhaps
in another generation. Infidelity prevails much, but even this, strange as
it may seem, will tend to cure Christians, from disputing with one another, which
has done great harm in hardening unbelievers. —
D— has lately left C—H—le to go to live at Sligo. R— gives an excellent cha-
racter of him and his wife they spent a few days with him, and he helped them on the
[illegible] — also gives a pleasing acc^t of sister T.— Her Grand son a lad of 19 years is
religious, by trade a carpenter, and tho' so young is respected and employed by several
people, he built a room with a fire place to make his grand mother comfortable. Whilst
I am writing this, the tears fall fast from my eyes with gratitude to that God, who among
all our afflictions, has mingled unbounded mercies to us all. — J. C.

I hope your son will learn something now from what he has gone through. God is striving to convince him that no happiness is to be found but in himself: therefore let him seek him in right earnest, lest some greater evil befall him. I can only say, let us all pray for each others, and feel each others cares; hoping that ere long we shall all meet in ~~[illegible]~~ the haven of rest, after being long tossed upon this sea of troubles. —

Farewell! yours. J: C

Feb: 5th 1800

My dear Sister

This will just inform you that I am still in the body on this side of Jourdan, hard toiling to make the blest shore:— but whether I shall be so when you receive it is very doubtful. — I have little to relate that will give you pleasure; but much which will cause grief, as I know you can sympathize with your afflicted brethern. Our Bre. are suffering extremely, tho' in different ways, both in body and mind. I believe W— is still in the body; tho' by the last acct. he could not hold out long. He must have suffered in mind a long time, from various causes: he suffered much also in body. I believe his son went to sea from here. It was only lately that we could learn any thing about him. — As to R— he is suffering in all manner of ways, His bodily afflictions are great scarce a day out of bed; or when he does struggle out to do business, he returns home worse. Lately his youngest daughter has a strange disorder in her throat, the passage is likely to close up, without any apparent cause. his eldest daughter is like to die with grief. His temporal substance is melting away fast, partly by villainy of the world and partly by losses &c He hath likewise very great exercises of mind about some in the connexion, they are Ignorent and conceited, they can not bear him, when he is hinting things or striving to do them good. I have often advised him not to puzzle or distress his mind about these things; for he can not help them; and he has enough of other things to exercise him. God permits much evil in this world for a time, but still he will superintend his own cause, and all things shall end well at last. It is well to acknowledge God in all things; and see his hand, both in adversity and prosperity, respecting nations, families, or individuels. There is a dreadful shaking of all the nations of Europe at this day; and it has long been my opinion that there will be yet more and more distress throughout all the earth. Your country will have its share in time; for there are parties in [illegible] and ambitious men will arise in every age, and these always divide the people & excite discord, enmity, and war. — I fear greatly that there will be more blood shed in Ireland. The papists are still dissatisfied and raising in[illegible] and very ~~[illegible]~~ probably, the French have Agents among them to stir them up. That barbarous practice of houghing the cattle has lately appeared again. The people of this nation are suffering the effects of war in their trade and various ways; tho' we have not seen blood in the land. I have pd. £36 taxes of various kinds this last year. Hitherto we have struggled through; and I have much cause to trust God for the future, for he has wonderfully provided for me in the wilderness, and borne with my manners, as he did with those of old. Oh! that all men would learn to fear, love, and ~~[illegible]~~ obey him, for his mercy endureth for ever! — I have had pretty severe afflictions both of body and mind, as well as others, but I believe they have all been working for good, and administered by a wise Physician, who cannot err, and who doth all things well. As Mr. Wesley says "He is most merciful, when most severe." — During Nov. and Decr. I was better than I usually am at that season. But about Christs. my old winter's complaint a cough and great quantity of phlegm, which always distresses me

and oppresses my lungs, has returned; and has lately increased so as to reduce me to the lowest ebb. &c. I very seldom preach; and of late have scarcely been able to read the prayers. I had a great struggle on the first Sunday in the last month in the evening, as we renew the Covenant at that time. I could get no Clergyman to assist me. The preachers held it in the other parts of the Town and admin.d the Sac.t This kept many from coming to me, and I was glad of it in some respects. I had about 600 commun.ts but in former years there used to be much more; and in Mr. W—s time two or three thousand. I desired an old preacher to give out two or three verses of a Hymn every fifteen or twenty minutes; and then sat down to rest. The Stewards also gave me a glass of wine to refresh me & got thro' tolerably well. I was worse the year before, tho' I had one to ~~as~~ assist me for a while; for I had almost fainted several times. It is probable this will be my last time; as my race is nearly run. Hitherto the Lord ~~[illegible]~~ has wonderfully supported me: and I believe many people begin to see his hand in this respect. The Trustees of the Chapel have for some years been trying to get a Clergyman but cannot suit themselves at least no respectable one will come here. The preachers have admin.d the Sac.t for years in most parts of the kingdom; but not in London untill within these last ten months they did in some places a few miles out of Town before. I foresaw twenty years ago that this would some time be the case, and there was no way preventing it: and it would be no harm, if all other things were well and right. — The printed Letter which I sent you, was merely to give my private opinion to a few friends, and was not intended to be made public. I wrote another larger one upwards of 14 years ago, addressed to one of the chief preachers, remarking upon a pamphlet which he printed the year before. He attempted to shew that Mr W. & all the Meth.ts were Dissenters from the beginning. It had a good deal of subtilty; in some things I agreed with him, and in others I differed. His pamphlet, I believe was only circulated among the preachers and I did not make mine public. I knew it would do no good; and I only wrote it to leave my opinion and testimony behind me. I know all this will go for nothing. Perhaps I may send it to you, if I can; but it is of no consequence. You and I will soon be numbered with the dead. I should have been glad to have heard from Dr. Mc to let me know every thing about that country where he is gone. Let him and every one remember that we shall meet with crosses and disappointments wherever we go, till the end of the world. Remember me to poor B. when you write. I endeavour to remember you all daily, as I hope you do me. Ere long, I trust, we shall meet on a peaceful shore after having been long tossed upon a tempestuous Ocean. Thanks to our good Pilot, who has conducted us thus far; were it not for him, we should have long ago been overwhelmed in the great Deep. — My poor daughter H— too is launched upon this stormy sea and she is likely to have a very rough passage indeed. We were twelve months without hearing the least tidings of her. What our minds must have felt during that time, I leave you to guess; but that is impossible. I am striving to hope that all this dark dispensation are intended by a wise Parent to imbitter this world to us, lest we should be glued to it. A preacher, named Coates, came here a few months ago from Canada, to beg for building a Chapel in some part of that country. I don't know if he got much; but the people seemed to like him: but we are burthened with building Chapels ourselves. Our Congregations increase, and larg. Chapels are necessary. They have lately built a large one on the South side of the river in Surry which will cost upwards of five thousand pounds; and another as large is intended farther down the river on the same side. My views of Religion & professors are nearly the same as your own. There is outwardly an appearance of a prosperous state of the Church, and whilst there is a desire in the people at large

My dear Sister, July 13th 1807

Finding that a ship is going to sail for your place I send you a few lines, tho' I have nothing very particular since my last. I got a letter some time ago from R--- giving account of his trials with law-suits. A Tenant of his got a man to swear falsly by which he lost £130. He had another trial with the Bishop and other neighbours about the roads. He got the better of them again in a wonderful manner. He went first before the Grand Jury to reason with them, where the B--was with them. They would not listen to him; but sent in the presentment to the Judge, and told lies about it. R-- told the judge the falsehood who sent them back to consider: when they returned they were obliged to confess, and then the judge threw out the Bill entirely. The whole people were pleased and said he was able to contend with the D-l since he had foiled both the Bishop and the Grand Jury. He says his heart was engaged the whole time in prayer. But God arose for him in the hour of extremity. It appears to me that Christians will be tried more and more during their life. Thanks be to God, we are in his hand, and under his care; and I trust in him that he will in some way bring us through. But we cannot teach our children this lesson I see that every individual must learn experience himself from what he shall suffer; very often they buy this experience very dear because they will not listen to those have gone the way before them. -- I had much duty yesterday. In the evening I went nearly four miles to the westward preached and administered the Sacr. I have been very restless during the night, and my left ancle is much swelled and very uneasy to day. From what I suffered winter & spring, I am concluding that this next one will put a period to my sufferings here. Let us write to each other whilst we are spared. Farewell.

J. L.

My dear Sister Aug: 22d 1807

I rec'd yours. Tho' we have nothing to relate but trials upon trials both of ourselves and our relations, yet we may continue to write whilst in the body; it may lead us to reflect more and more on the dealings of God, and thank him for all his dispensations, however severe they may be, I trust they are all working some way for our good. Our Pro- are suffering in various ways as usual &c-- The papists in Ire:d are stirring again and dissatisfied, and there is a severe military Law lately enacted for the soldiers to enter any house which is suspected, at any hour of the night to search for arms, &c. It is likely the Soldiers may abuse this power, and act improperly, which will drive the others to desparation. The whole world is convulsed and out of order, and I have thought for many years that it will be more so still. God has a contraversy with the nationes; because men transgress & trample on his laws. Some disagreable disputes have lately happened between the American States and us; and I think the French have their Agents among you, who will blow up the fire, and sow discord. I will not pretend to point out who is most in fault, but individuals frequently act improperly, and then are a cause of involving their country in troubles. This has been the case in every age: and we need not wonder at it, when we consider human nature. Even they who are in part regenerated are prone to depart from the living God. Man is a most wonderful creature, endowed with faculties, which if properly used he might be very happy; but by abusing them, he becomes miserable. A preacher named John Livingston ran off to A-- sail'd for Bal:e He was guilty of the unnatural crime and got the Loodroom of £100 &c

Another of the name of Livingston in Ireland, was expelled for immorality. You had
best to write and inform your preachers to be vigilant against him, if they should come a-
mong you; and I think all Denominations throughout the States should be warned
against such persons, to prevent the public being imposed on. B-- is greatly har-
rassed in his mind about the C--. He cannot think that some are called
of God, or that they have just Ideas about saving faith &c. He is grieved in his spirit
about these things. He sees more & more duplicity spreading in the C-- and so do
I; but we can do nothing to prevent it; and any one who is honest to speak what he thinks
is reckoned an enemy to the work of God. These are very grievious things; and if one
would enter into reasoning, they might be inclined to turn Deists, or to think there is no reali-
ty in religion, and that it is mere priestcraft. We cannot but feel for our children,
and the rising generation: yet God will superintend his own work; and will alway
have a Church upon earth tho' the number may be very few. I need say little a-
bout my own trials. I have had a tolerable share; but I expect more as long as I am in
this world. I have buried many of my old acquaintance here. Most of the old members
are gone off the stage; and a new race sprung up. They are gradually going
further from many things which Mr Wesley instituted; tho' they pretend the
contrary; and the inexperienced people have not discernment to see. Some of
the old members are greatly grieved. The people are burthened more and more
with large families there is six married preachers and two single ones here. There
have been debating, but the Conference carries all at present. But as long as this
state of things lasts, people will think differently, and even the religious world will
be divided. One L. D. came from America, is now in Ire.d The preachers
are against him; tho' some of the people are for him. He is very odd in his man-
ner. Some people are apt to give way to impressions; and if we give way to ima-
gination, we know not where to stop. It is well to have the heart establish-
ed in grace, and to walk humbly with God. — Farewell — J. C.

Sep.r 8.th 1807

My dear Sister

Tho' I wrote to you lately, and have nothing particular to add since,
yet, as I'm going to the Sea side in a few days, I just drop you a few lines before
I go. Time is on the wing, and I find my poor frame tending fast to dissolution.
I cannot get away so soon as I wished, nor can I stay long. I am critically cir-
cumstanced here, in many ways that I cannot fully explain to you. &c &c &c
In all the events which come to pass, let us always take God into the ac-
count. He has a controversy with all nations, and permits them to punish
one another. The people in your States are getting rich, and proud as well as others.
Riches in all ages beget luxury, and this brings with it ten thousand evils. It
holds good in nations, in families, and individuals. It is possible we may get in-
to the haven of rest before that dreadful calamity may come, but yet we must
feel for those we leave behind. B--- is still saying he thinks he will die in
D--. Perhaps it may be the safest place for him to fly, in case of troubles in
his own country. But I have cautioned him not to move any where, untill
God points out the way; or untill he is driven out. He has little satisfaction
where he is, on many accounts. The conduct of almost all the B--- is most
scandalous &c. These are grievious things to a feeling mind. B. T. is grown
religious and sensible, but is poor. His mother also is in way to heaven,
and M-- says she is wonderfully improved in understanding. How wonderful
are the ways of providence: too deep for us to fathom. But we are sure that
all he doth is right and will be cleared up at last. There is nothing new con-
cerning B. W. but I suppose he is suffering more than language can describe
both in body and mind. There is no account of his Son since he went off.
This is grief enough, if there were nothing else. —

it is a very uncertain provision: perhaps they would not agree 3 months. To part this child never to see his face in this world on such uncertain ground, would go hard enough with him: yet for his part he does not give it up at present entirely. He must leave them soon perhaps to sail on a tempestuous sea. But he will then neither hear them sigh, or see them weep." — I have given you his own words: so we must leave it for the present, and recommend him and our selves as well as we can to the superintendance of Him that doth all things well: and I hope that it will turn out some way for the best for us all in the end. I am sure that riches are dangerous: few can bear them, or make a proper use of them. I hear frequently dreadful accounts of many who have set their hearts upon these perishing things. The more this world is embittered to us, the better: though afflictions have not always the desired effect. — Our family have had a pretty tolerable share of them; and I can scarcely tell who have had most. But I am sure we have all deserved ten thousand times more than we have yet suffered. All we can do is to sympathize with, and pray for each other, that we may be enabled by our great Pilot to weather every storm, and at length meet in the haven of eternal rest. I suppose you will have heard before you receive this, of some of the events which have taken place in this country, & other parts of Europe. The times are very awful indeed: for God is mightily shaking the nations. We got a victory over the French at sea the 21st of Octr last, but our great Admiral Lord Nelson was killed in it. He was buried here in St Paul's, lately: the procession was greater than ever for any of our kings: perhaps there never was the like seen in any nation. We have also lost our great prime Minister Mr Pitt, who died a few days ago. He was a very great Statesman indeed.

Many of the most sensible religious people in this country ridicule the camp-meetings among you. I must own I do not like noisy work: but I say little about them meetings. God sometimes brings good out of evil. We have very good preachers here this year: our congregations are generally large; and I hope good is doing, tho' not with noise. A society was formed here about a fortnight ago by pious ministers and Gentlemen to Diffuse religious knowledge &c. Many pious Clergy are now raised up in Ireland. This is good news. I rejoice at it. With love to all. JC

My dear sister — May 27th 1807

I just snatch a moment to let you know that I am still on this side of Jordan, struggling with many difficulties and afflictions of body and mind in this wilderness of sorrows. I have had a long dull and afflicting winter; as myself and most of my family have had and extraordinary cough ever since the begining of Novr: nor are we we yet free from it, and many other circumstances which all combined to exercise my mind with grief &c to which your letter of Decr 8th respecting the family of [redacted] being lost and other things contributed not a little: and I was kept in painful uncertainty untill the 24th of April. I see more and more that all our family are called to extraordinary sufferings; and I am fully persuaded that all is intended by a wise Providence to work together for our good. Oh! that it may have that desired effect upon us all! Our friends in Ireland are suffering much in various ways. That young man, who was here for a year went off suddenly in March and we have ~~not~~ heard nothing of him since.

&c &c

I had to write all this to his poor Father who was overwhelmed enough before
with old age and other infirmities &c — I leave you to guess what the poor man
must feel. — R— has his trials of various kinds, and is greatly afflict-
ed in body and mind. He has had a law suit with his tenants in Lis-
and has lost it together with costs, which is about 70 £. they got a man
to swear a false oath. The Bishop also served him with a notice for ano-
ther trial about roads thro' his farm. His troubles and griefs are various: o-
ther accounts are grievous indeed. But death will probably soon put an end to
all our sorrows and cares. I expect that Ireland will yet become a scene of blood.
The spirit of the papists is stirred up anew; as they have been disappointed in a
petition lately to our Government for more priviliges tho' they had too much
already. Our king rejected it, as it seemed contrary to his oath which he took
at his Coronation, to maintain the protestant religion. He turned out all his
ministers, and dissolved the parliment. It seems to me as if the evil spirit
had got a fresh commission to go forth to sow discord and enmity among
the inhabitants of the earth. There has been a great slaughter of men in
the north of Europe as the french and Russians have been fighting there
during the whole winter &c — I think it probable that your States will have
a share of troubles yet, or they will divide among themselves. We are thus
far spared from seeing blood; but we feel the effects in various ways. I am ra-
ther a little better than I was last week. I had much labour last Sun.y but got
thro' tolerably, considering all things. I went first a mile to our great Chapel,
where I read the prayers for an hour: then I took a coach, went westward upwards
of two miles to our second Chapel, and ~~the~~ administered the Sacr.t to 300, then
then dined and walked two miles farther west, and preached and admin. the
Sacr.t to about 80 persons; then returned home four miles in a coach at
nine oclock. Thus far the Lord hath helped me. — I am frequently confined
the whole week, scarcely able to do any thing; and yet I venture out on the
Sun.y: so that the people know little of what I suffer, nor even my own family
because I am usually so. I am greatly perplexed with various things at
was printing some papers; one of which I enclose to you. I can not explain
one thousand part of what has exercised my mind every year, and almost e-
very month. and that when I am near dropping into the grave. Much dup-
plicity and a worldly spirit prevails among a certain class of men here:
but they boast that all is prospering, and their numbers increasing; they
are building Chapels in all places at a great expence. They think to carry
all before them, and call themselves the Ch: of G—d now. They have gradually
changed the whole system; and chiefly act by worldly policy &c &c. — —
The man to whom I have addressed the enclosed paper, is an old steady member
He is leader of three classes &c — Farewel. J. C.

My dear Sister Dec. 14th 1805

Yours of the 29th of Octr I recd on the 1st of Dec: You need
not hesitate to write. Time is fast posting away: let us catch the moments,
and remember each other as long as we are here. (here follows affairs rela-
tive to himself and friends, and also this daughter A— who he had not then heard
of her arrival in America) He says. I am endeavouring to prepare my mind
for the worst. She is dead to me at any rate: and oh! if her soul were happy,
it would be well to be gone from a world of misery and sorrow.
I have had letters from R— lately. He is often at the point of death: ~~and~~
Beside, his mind is harrassed with various things; partly about his
chil.n partly about the conduct of some men at the head of affairs, and the cause
of truth &c He is perplexed beyond measure; and gives way, I think to a
melancholly spirit. I have often advised him not to puzzle himself too much
about things which he cannot help. There is much toil in the Christian
Church at this day, as well as in former times. R. F. is dead. A daughter
his, two ~~men and~~ another woman, are a comfort to R— as they walk steadily.

Dissenters. The Baptists have a Mission abroad so have the Moravians, Also we send out to the West Indias, and some preach in Irish in Ireland, and others in Welch in Wales. I hope there is some good done among them all: but I doubt not so much as is generally represented. However, by this means the Gospel will soon be preached among all nations and I hope a seed will be sown: but the great harvest will (I think) be in some extraordinary manner, that man cannot at present foresee and by which the hand of God will be more manifestly displayed. I suppose I have mentioned this thought of mine before. I can hardly account for it, but I cannot get rid of it. I approve of the Zeal of those who are promoting these missions: but it seems as if there were too much of man in it.— Whilst we are anxious to convert the heathen abroad; Infidelity and Deism prevails at home. Our great ones know no difference between one kind of religion and another, and I'm persuaded they would as soon conform to Popery to morrow as to Protestantism, if they only would enjoy their estates, and indulge their appetites. Some sensible people are afraid that Popery will yet prevail here, if our King were removed. If it does it will be in a political point of view, among our great men. Bonaparte pretends to countenance Religion, especially Popery, in France because he knows the influence it has upon the vulgar, and he takes care to keep priests all subservient to himself. This is all policy: and our folks would probably do the same, if an opportunity served. You would wonder how some of our Parliament men spoke lately in the debates of the house, in favour of the papists of Ireland.— — —

J— C

Octr 6th I rec'd a letter from R— a few days ago. There is bad work there still in several places, and there will be during the winter; for tho' the French who landed are made prisoners, the rebels quelled in every battle; they are more desperate, and thirsting for the protestants blood. There is a strong party out still in the mountains of Wicklow, who rush down at times and burn houses, and plunder, and murder some, and as many of the rebels have lost their property and houses, they are starving and consequently will plunder and murder when they can. The kingdom is full of armies of one kind or other, and yet there is much evil doing. Part of the acct from R is this.— On the landing of the French in the Co. Mayo, many of the rebels were encouraged, and ready to rise in places where they had not before. About the first of Sept: they seemed to rise in the Co: Longford & Westmeath, On the 3d in the evening they rose and took Edgersworth town: and afterwards were collecting near Granard. To this place 66 yeomandry from Ballentemple, Crossdoney & Kilmore repaired: but another express came that night to Cavan for more help. Captain Cottingham with 50 of his men (among whom was T— the Class-leader) set off in the night and got to Granard early in the morning on the 5th. There was then collected 174 yeomandry and 50 horse, Cottingham took the command. The rebels now appeared within a mile of the town, supposed to be four thousand. Cottingham placed 30 of his old men in the moat, and then advanced with the remainder to meet the Enemy. A Cavan lad (who is a good shot) asked leave to fire at a distance by way of trial, at which shot a rebel fell. This brought on the engagement. The rebels were endeavouring to surround: then Cottingham and his men retreated to the moat. & the 30 men kept ~~up a~~ fireing till all got in, and then all kept up a fire till the rebels retreated in all directions, of whom 150 were killed, and not one of the others. Some of the Granard men had gone out and joined the rebels: one of them a captain was killed. Their cattle & property was taken, and their houses burned.

some of their principle leaders were protestants. One of them called Dennison a-nother Cromey. D— was very rich, and has lost near 2000 £ worth. In the evening after the battle 200 Scotch got there from Cavan; who that night moved on towards Westmeath pursuing rebels towards Wilson's Hospital where a number of them were collected, and defeated with great slaughter, at the same time another party were met and defeated by Lord Longford.—

About this time the Lord Lieutenant and other Generals were pressing on the French at Castlebarr, who suddenly took to flight towards Sligo but turned towards Manorhamilton; then turned to the right up thro' the Co: Leitrim, they came near to Ballinamore. Then turned to Cloone, and from thence to the borders of the Co: Longford, where they were overtaken and defeated at a place called Ballinamuck. There were 900, who surrendered. Many rebels were taken and put to death the following days. Some of these came from France with the French; and tho' they pretended to be French, they were found out and hanged. One in his flight towards Ballinanagh was taken, hanged at Cavan, and his head fixed on the front of the Court house. At the time the French were moving towards Ballinamore that country was in alarm and many families flying towards Cavan &c. the rebels in various places spread false reports that the kings forces were defeated; this and the people flying from the Co: Leitrim threw Cavan and places around into alarm. That evening Sh— was in Cavan, was coming home at 10 o'clock; at Farnham met a Gentleman riding fast, with a gun. Sh— stopped him to ask the news: he said the families in Leitrim were flying for their lives and many carriages &c &c were just following. Sh— rode home in haste, began to pack up some of their cloaths and best things, &c to fly; but did not know where; sometimes he thought of Dublin, sometimes the North. The agitation of mind you may guess. He and wife and children wrought in this way till two in the morning, when they sunk down with fatigue, and went to rest. In the morning he was still undetermined where to go. In the night after he left Cavan an express arrived, ordering the army to repair to Baker's Bridge and break it down. The drum beat to arms, and a command was given to illuminate the houses to shew light. Suddenly 500 men were assembled, who marched in the middle of the night to Baker's bridge, and tore down a part of it. Belturbet also was under arms. It was not then known which way the French would head from Ballinamore. On the next morning on the hills from Kilmore, cannon were heard at a distance, but the cause was not then known. The yeomen cavalry were running expresses from all quarters. Sh— went to Crossdoney and then to Ballinagh to hear news. Some troops were collected there. In half an after he got there, an express arrived of the total defeat of the French and rebels. This news spread joy in every face. I leave you to reflect on the state the people must have been in while things were in suspence on acct of the various reports.— Part of the French and rebels staid at Killala where they landed first, and had the Bishop of that place in their possession: the rebels would have murdered him and his family: but the French officers hindered them.— They kept possession here till the 23 of Sepr when they were obliged to surrender. But notwithstanding the great slaughter of the rebels every where, they do not seem to give up; but are resolved if possible to extirpate all the protestants. On the other hand the yeomanry are as wicked as they, and as ready to turn out to butcher the rebels as to follow a mad dog. They have little fear of God before their eyes; yet the most hardened of them must acknowledge that at Granard the Lord fought their battle. This with the acct I sent you in a former letter, may give you some idea (tho' a faint one) of the state of that wretched country.—

Jan: 20th 1806 I got a long letter yesterday from S— His situation is distressing indeed; but he says he cannot find words to express it in any measure. He says he has ten childn five of them almost infants. He can see no way for their support than that God who feeds the young ravens when they cry. As to sending any of them to — he knows not how it can be got at, even if all parties were agreed. Respecting sending his boy to — —

There is a Jew here who is converted, and preaches, I heard him once, and liked him very much. He is a German by birth, has been here upwards of two years. Speaks English well for the time, only his accent is foreign. He speaks much of Christ, and prays for the Jews. He seems to be about 30 years of, and in all appearance like a Meth: preacher.

Pro.r Sh says he thinks Popery will make its last great effort in that country, before it is finally put down. To be sure the papists are much dissatisfied, and if the French were to land, they wd. rise and join them. But the Lord reigneth, let us look to him. — I believe I sent you the last pamphlet which I published. The one I published 2 years ago is all gone off except about a doz.n which I keep to myself. It was the only thing I ever printed, which paid me what it cost. I have a Translation of the New Testament; but I leave it with my family. I know not what use they will make of it. J. C

L S Doc.r Crumlin, is still alive. It is a miracle: is 81 years of age; and scarce differs from what he was 30 years ago: can read writing or print without spectacles: can write as fast and as well as ever: his memory not at all impaired. —

I entirely agree with you in your remarks about the professors of religion. The accounts are magnified for the reasons you assign. Some think it right, or a kind of policy, to tell these things to encourage others, and also to make the world at large think the better of them, and of religion. But I must own that I never could ~~think~~ approve of this mode; I do not think that it promotes religion; nor that God can approve of it.

Feb: 12th 1805

My dear Sister

I rec.d your letter. I wrote to T- shortly after I got yours, and desired him to let you know how we were. The whole of last year was one continued scene of affliction or distress of mind; as every week or 2 produced something trifling, and every succeeding one was worse than the foregoing. On the 2d of Nov.r my wife was taken with a violent fever. I had scarcely any hope. In about a fortnight, the fever abated: but she continued a month after that in a most doubtful way. I bore up tollerably, considering all these things, till a little before Christ.s when I got my old winter's complaint a cold, and a convulsive cough; which sticks to me still. &c before Christ.s some of the people here came to understand my expences were great in repairing my house, and also that my wife was ill, was kind to me and sent me help in a letter, with a few very kind words of their respect for me. I have great reason to bless God for this and ten thousand other things, which he has done for me both here and thro' all my life: and I hope you will join with me in praising him. It is true, I have frequently drank the very dregs of the cup of bitterness; but still he poured in now and then some drops of the sweet in order to bear me up a little. I am more and more convinced every day, that however grievious disappointments and crosses are, they are intended for our good; to wean us more and more from this poor empty world, and its enjoyments: for prosperity is dangerous. As the heat of the sun relaxes the body, and enfeebles it; so does prosperity and its attendants enervate the mind. Oh! what a kind parent have we, who knows what is best for us: and when he doth chastise, does it for our benefit. — At this present time, I have a little respite from many of those severe exercises which I had all last year: but from my experience thro' life, I am to expect more and more whilst in this vale of tears. Indeed already I anticipate a trial, respecting my son in law H---- s&c We are all sailing thro' a tempestuous ocean, hard toiling to make the blest shore!!

Let us bear each other on our mind in our addresses to our heavenly Father; till we come to meet before him and part no more.

"Thrice blessed bliss, inspiring hope!" — Friend & ! yours — J. C

My dear Sister   Lon.ⁿ June 20th—1805

Yours of the 24th of Feb: came to hand in due time. I have weathered out another winter; but it has been a long and afflicting one to myself and family; yet at at present I am in some respects better than a year ago; and some say I look wonderfully well. Yet I feel many things which they know nothing of. My wife is greatly reduced since she had that fever. My son is learning his trade and works hard. I am thankful to have him employed in any thing. He would not give himself the trouble to learn things that might be of use to him or qualify him self for a genteel employment. I have met with nothing but disappointments and crosses thro' life, but I am so enured to them now, that I am striving to hope against hope that all things shall in the end some way work together for good.

My son in law H. and his wife and youngest child left us the 3d inst: to go to Liverpool there to embark for Boston. What I felt at parting with my daughter is not to be described. The dangers of the seas, the storms and tossings she has to pass thro' in life, and ten thousand other things have been for a long time painted to my view in very strong colours. But I must submit to this as well as to many other bitter draughts. Sed— — —

I lately met a clergyman here, who is come from Ireland for the benefit of his health, who gives me an account which rejoices my heart. He says there are 21 Clergymen in and about the neighbourhood of Kilkenny, (of which he is one) who are now zealous to promote true religion. They meet once a month, to converse and discuss points of religion and one preaches a sermon in turn. There is a Rector and his Curate in the City of Kilkenny who are pious and zealous, at whose church they preach when they assemble. That city and round it was noted to a proverb for dissipation and wickedness. Much good is done within these three years; and some individuals even among the higher classes are truly turned to God. This man himself (whom I met here) was formerly of those who were mad in pursuit of pleasure, hunting, danceing, &c. he is procuring subscriptions here from some great folks, to buy Bibles & Testaments, in order to distribute among the poor dark papists of Ireland. I like this Clergyman very much. He said he had rec'd a letter the other day which mentioned five more Clergymen who have joined their Society since he came away. So that I hope there will be a holy leaven; and that they will provoke others to jealousy: and perhaps God will regard the remnant and still spare that guilty land. These by meeting together and conversing together, will strengthen each others hands, and will likewise sharpen each other. Oh! what consolation would it have afforded me if I had only a half dozn of such to converse with 25 years ago! But, hitherto the Lord has stood by me, and here I stand as a monument of his mercy at this day! He doth what seemeth him good; and to his name alone be ascribed all the praise!

I approve much of the remarks you make concerning the work of religion in your country: and I trust God will still give you discernment respecting both men and doctrines. There has been much evil mingled with the good in all ages; and I suppose it will be so for some time longer. It is best not to be too hasty, either in approving or condemning; but wait a while to see the event or what fruit will be produced. Infidels will lay hold of every little particular which turns out bad; but they will pass by unnoticed that which is good. Oh! that we may so take heed to our ways, that we may not prove a stumbling block to any one!

There is much stir in this kingdom about sending out Missionaries to distant nations among the heathens. Much money is subscribed by various denominations and different societies formed, some by the high-church, some by the Calvinists who are partly church [illegible] partly

My dear Sister

London Octr 26 — 1804

Your letter of the 24th July I recd some time ago. I don't remember whether I answered it or not; as I have been perplexed with ten thousand things, that I can scarcely retain my senses. I think I wrote to you twice or thrice since that one you mention. What I have gone thro' since ~~that on~~ Christ– last, both in body and mind, is beyond the power of words to express. And I am suffering in my mind at this time still more and more. However, thank God, I am much better in bodily health than I was in spring and summer. I went a short excursion to the sea about the 20th of Sepr and got benefit. If I could have stayed longer, it wou'd wonderfully restore me: but I am greatly confined here on account of the Sunday duty, and have not yet got a Clergyman to assist me. When I had waited some months in expectation of one, and found he could not come, being quite worn down, I took one Sun'y which allowed me near a fortnight to be away. I went to Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight; and the weather being very dry together with the sea air, I found it very pleasant and was much revived even in a few days. I had never been in those parts before, and was well pleased with what I saw. The Isle of Wight is 21 miles long and 12 broad; and 30 parishes in it. I stoped in it but two nights and one day at a good large town called Newport, where I preached each night; we have got a good new preaching house there. I came back at the shortest passage which is seven miles, to Portsmouth, where I stayed a week: where I was very comfortable with the preachers and people, and preached there four times.

I suppose I said something in my former letters about my house, which has given me and my family much labour and anxiety for upwards of 3 months &c It is now in good order, and I expect it will cost me a good deal. has not got any of it let yet, as I wished to do— But beside all these things I had many more to grieve and perplex me. And now I am at a loss for words to tell you what I have felt within these last ten days. (here he mentions trials of a peculiar nature and then says.) I have none but God alone to converse with on this and many other matters; and he knows all things. I might soon fill up my paper in speaking about these things: but I know you will excuse me and feel for me. In the midst of all this I have been striving to believe or hope against hope, that all these things will some way strangely work for good in the end, tho' I may not see it in this world. I am always looking back at the merciful dealings of God with me; and this encourages me to trust him still: for I know he is still the same and has not lost his power or willingness to save. All my trials have been mingled with mercies: and whenever I speak in public, I am always exhorting people to trust in Jehovah, for none were ever disappointed who trusted in him. I have had innumerable letters to write to several persons besides my brothers. I have not heard from either of them a long time. I suppose them both to be suffering, tho' in different ways. We have been all a suffering family: but I trust all has been strangely working for our good. Our kind and indulgent parent knew what was best for us: we see it in part, and we shall see it more clearly hereafter. We may all say in the words of the poet—

"Oh! what are all my sufferings here, if Lord thou count me meet
with that enraptured host to appear, and worship at thy feet?
Give joy or grief, give ease or pain, take life or friends away:
But let me find them all again in that eternal day!"—

I have no one but God alone, who can fully enter into my feelings or cares. I find no satisfaction in talking even to religious persons: they can say nothing but what I know, and know it by experience better than the most of them. 'Tis impossible for any person fully to enter into another's case or feelings: but it is well that there is One who sympathizes with us, and feels our every burden and every care. Glory be to Him.
Desire + + + to write me a full account of what he has seen and remarks which he and others have made about these camp meetings. Many serious writers here are giving their opinion freely in various magazines about these things. They think that most of these agitations are owing to natural causes, or the animal system: I have had some private thoughts of the same kind for years; tho' I said little. We should well under-stand the human system, or the connection there is between the body and the mind: and the wisest on earth cannot fully comprehend this. That word is very true— I am fearfully and wonderfully made. But we must use prudence in condemning these agitations of the body, which are observed in persons when awakened from sin. I saw some instances myself in Ireland; when the distress of the persons was beyond the power of language to express. And God may make use of different means to bring souls to himself. If they are brought to him it is all well. But the best evidence afterwards is the fruits that are brought forth. For, if the tree is really changed, the fruit will of course be good. — I wish to caution the people of America against several persons who have gone from this country and other places of Europe: some of them Ministers; who after acting wrong, fly away to hide themselves in that great continent; and may deceive the people there a long time, before they are found out. — Farewell! J. C.

As so many things occupy my mind every minute, I forget even what I wrote a few hours before. I know not if I mentioned to you anything about a new Sect which has risen up here of late. A woman pretends to be a prophetess; and many (some say thousands) have joined her. She tells them that great judgments are coming upon all nations; and all people will perish except they have a letter signed and sealed by her. This they call sealing. She is to die and rise again the third day, as a proof of her being a prophetess. Before Christ= we had a remarkable dark day; the fog was so thick that persons at two yards distance could scarcely be discerned. She happened to be coming that day to town from some part of the country. Her followers said, this fog was sent on purpose from heaven, to screen her from the eyes of the vulgar. One of these people was walking with an acquaintance in a public street; and as they walked he took off his hat, as it were to make a solemn bow to some one passing by. The other, seeing no body, asked him whom he saluted. He replyed. "That was Moses." And going on, he saluted another; and said it was St Paul. When people give way to imagination they know not where to stop. And, we may remark, that however absurd the tenants of some people may be, they will still get some to join them. But these things do great harm: because the Infidels are ready to catch at them, and then look upon even the sincere and upright, as impostors or fools.

July 7th 1804

My dear Sister

In the midst of my hurry and great exercises of mind I wrote
wrote the enclosed the other day to a young woman who was an intimate companion
of my eldest daughter. She is sensible, and has rather a strong turn of mind: and
has long been enquiring in her mind about the reasons of things in religion &c
Her mother is an old member of our society. The daughters are moral; but one
is married to a Deist, who rather hurt the family &c — The young woman wrote to
me, as she had done formerly on other questions. If you think fit you may shew
it to such of your friends as you think it would be useful to. I am often interrupt-
-ed by little things of this sort starting up, which takes off my mind from
what I would wish chiefly to attend to: and as I am obliged to transcribe three
or four coppies almost every thing that I write to give some of my friends, and to keep
one for my children, it takes up much of my time. If you could comprehend
my situation in many respects and my infirmities you would be amazed
that I scribble so much as I do. But I endeavour to catch every moment, well know-
ing that there is no work in the grave; and that my poor hand will soon be un=
able to hold a pen. I wrote to you about two months ago (tho' I scarcely remember
any thing) and informed you of some of my severe trials. You can in some measure
sympathize with me. My exercises of late have been so many and from all
quarters, that it looks as if satan was permitted to set all his engines at work, or to
employ all his agents to harrass and perplex me; as he did Job. I strive to make
God my refuge; for I have no other; and he knows every thing. I endeavour to
hope against hope that these things will some how turn out, or work for good; tho'
I can not see how. I never did distrust God; nor can I murmer at any of his dispen=
sations; for why should a living man complain? R--- has had many and grevi-
ous trials from various quarters; and he may expect more and more. The B---s are all
shamefully wicked. Our uncle W---- is still living; and is like to die as he lived. —
John Price is now traveling on that circuit, and is an excellent character. His head
which was jet black, is now white as this paper. He got a hurt in his leg some years
ago, and was laid aside for a time. He got better, and set out again to travel, and is very
useful. Many of the first rate abilities have fallen, and some shamefully so; while
some poor humble things & weak gifts, have shone brighter at the last. He that humbleth him-
self shall be exalted. I met somewhere in an old Author this simile — "The best & weightiest grains
of the corn hang nearest the ground." And a ship, the heavier it is laden, the deeper it
sinks. Oh! what a poor creature is man at his best estate! What has he good, but what
he receives every moment from the bountiful doner of every good gift! —
I am thankful for advice: and have long been endeavouring to act in that manner. I
have none but God to make my case known to but he knows it already; and will do what
seemeth him best. I beg of him daily, and almost hourly to superintend all my affairs,
both temporal and spiritual. I have none who can truly sympathize with me, except
my dear brothers and sisters who are far from me. However, as I trust we have all
our faces towards Zion, I have a hope we shall arrive there at last: and perhaps a
part of our business will be to relate what storms we have passed through, and
the kind dealings of a tender Father extended to us all. Each of us may perhaps think
that his own trials are the severest. Wm thinks his is the worst of the whole fami-
ly; they are bad enough: and I am ready to think that few in Europe at this mo=
ment has greater difficulties to encounter, and burthens to bear than I have.
But still I will not entirely give up, for by looking back I see the hand that supported
me in six trials; and I know it is not shortened, but still able to save. —

I approve much of those people and the preacher, with whom you meet. Those who conduct themselves in that manner will be steady members; and be an ornament to religion. Though some few may have obtained some good in the hasty noisy work yet generally the Enemy sows his tares among the wheat, and thus does infinite mischief. Mind not what is said or thought about your conduct in the economy of your household. Just go on in the same way let friends or foes say just what they please.

I believe there is very little religion in C---- I hear D. C. made a sort of union between parties: but in a little time Mr B. (H--'s successor) sold the chapel to some other Minister. I see human nature is the same on every side of the globe: and those who are aspiring after elevation or a great name in the church as well as the state; very often get a dreadful fall. I approve of you a distance from ++++ and all such characters, they bring a reproach upon the Church in every age.

B. R.--- has had much exercises of mind about the conduct of some, who he thinks are growing more tyrannical in that kingdom every day; and reviving as it were old popery again. There are great alterations in that kingdom in many respects. They are strengthening themselves with military forces; but I fear they are not putting their whole trust in the Most High. Wickedness abounds among all ranks. The Clergy are immoral, except a few. I dont think the poor will be any thing the better for the union, because more and more of the gentry come over and reside here, &c. I have written some of my thoughts about that nation which I gave to a gentleman my friend, who gave it to Mr Wilberforce, who has been striving for many years to get the slave trade abolished; but he has not prevailed yet, as many of the rich folks are interested in it. — I remain yours as always. J. C.

A clergyman, Mr Simson of Macclesfield, who is now dead. He wrote a book shortly before his death, which is now printed. He was a good man, and preach[ed] the truth. The following is an extract from a part of it.

"We may cry out against the unhappy Irish for their rebellious conduct: and and to be sure they are greatly to blame in many respects. However, is there not a cause? — There are 22 Bishops whose Income is £ 74-000 p Ann. i.e. at the rate of £ 3.363 p Ann. p man, beside their other preferments. — There are some worthy characters, but others extremely to blame. Can we wonder then if Infidelity run like wild-fire among the people: and that they should wish to overturn such a system of corruption and rise in rebellion for that purpose? Nothing but true religion, or a sense of the impolicy of the measure can restrain them. — I do affirm again and again, that the slothful and temporizing Bishops and Clergy of Europe are the main authors of the present miseries of Europe; and we may justly and infallibly expect, Divine Providence will ere long pluck us off our perches, as he hath done in other countries, and give our offices and emoluments to those that are more worthy of them. Nothing can save us but to become a[...] to the interests of pure disinterested, evangelical religion. —

I add further, that among the other causes of complaints in our sister kingdom, many (or most) of the Bishopricks are filled up by the Viceroy from among English clergy; and the best livings are possessed by Englishmen; who are frequently non-residents. Every impartial person must consider this as a real grievance, the generality of the Irish Clergy, and the great mass of the laity, in a religious point of view. We need not wonder, if a people, left to perish by the ministers for lack of knowledge, should rise up and cut the throats of those ministers. This is a just reaction of Providence. We talk of the wild Irish, as being little raised above a state of savage nature. But who is to blame for all this? The Bishops and clergy I trow."

-ire pions, or what we call converted. It is said there are about 400 in England & Wales. This is a token for good. Give my love to poor B---; bid her look into the 7th Ch: of Micah and take the resolution at the 7th ver. I have often spoke from it.— Give my love to all other friends.— Farewell! may we all meet above to rejoice together for ever!— J. C.

Account of Doc.r Cottingham's ~~D. D.~~ death. May 8th 1804

"March 25th Died at Cavan the Rev. Jn Cottingham. D. D. Vicar General of the Diocese of Kilmore; Rector of the parish of Cavan for 60 years, and of the parish of Carrigallen for 32 years. The history of this good man's life exhibited one unvaried example of virtue. Religion and Christianity will record his memory; but the widow and the orphan, the sick and the needy in Him have lost their benefactor and friend. Let those who succeed him remember whom they follow, and beware of comparison. He departed this life aged 82, meek in life and in death resigned!"— The above was printed in the Dublin papers.— My brother Robt used to call on him some times, Last year when near death, he made Ch-- sit near to his bed, leaned over and whispered in his ear— "O Rob, I never saw myself in such a state as I do now. I am and have been a great sinner, pray for me." Robt strove to point him to Christ alone. Shortly before he died he called him forward, saying, "I am going": and when Robt was going, he held out his hand, to bid him farewell; and said "O pray for me! it is such men whose lives are regular I wish to pray for me."— Robt was greatly affected, but it offended the family, so that when he would call again, they would meet him at the door, insisting that he would say nothing to affect him. They did not wish to have him into the room, but the Dr would have him to come near. The last time he saw him, he was in a doze with his head on a pillow on the table. From the whole Ch- has hopes that he found mercy: and I have scarcely a doubt of it. I am greatly rejoiced, and it has affected me very much. He was buried in the aisle of the church under the reading-desk. The people and his tenants lamented him much; and he died with a good character. He respected honest religious men, if he could believe they were such.—

"The Clergy in that country (Robt says) are abominable in their lives, and even their Bishop. There are only two moral at present. One of whom is Dr Hales. He published a pamphlet last year against the Meth. Mr Benson, our preacher here, has answered it; and exposes the Dr sadly for his ignorence of Scripture.—

There are various things publishing here every day some for and others against what we think true religion. There are some very great men among all denominations raising up to defend the truth against Infidelity. I rejoice at this. I have lately read a sermon by a Baptist minister of Cambridge Mr Rob: Hall, the title is "Modern Infidelity considered." It is very long, and is overcapital: he has got great from some of the Bishops and higher powers for it. I heard him preach here about a month ago a Charity Sermon for the widows & orphans of Dissenting Ministers. He is a good speaker, and a powerful reasoner.—

A good clergyman of the church at Macclesfield, who preached well and was useful, and friendly to the Meths published several things, and

at length came to the resolution to resign his living, his conscience being burdened about some things in Ch: service and the life, and the conduct of the clergy. He wrote plain and much against the Bishops and higher Clergy: telling them if they do not reform there will be a revolution &c. He died on the day when he resolved to resign his living. The Book is since printed. I think he was very honest: but many good men think he was too scrupulous; and might have continued to do good. However, every one must act according to conscience. — I fear that most of what he said is too true; and that if the great ones do not reform, the judgments of will fall heavy at last upon them and this land. There is indeed a good remnant who are still standing in the gap, and perhaps God ~~will~~ may spare us a little longer. But the times are awful and big with great events. Our expences & taxes are increasing daily: so that tho' we may not see slaughter and blood around us, yet we will suffer in various ways.

I am almost driven out of my mind, with various things coming upon me in a heap for many months. Tho' I have suffered much in my body; it is nothing to the anguish and distresses of my mind — —

I have no human being to condole with me. I tell God that I have no refuge but him; and he knows all things. Perhaps he is permitting these things, to sift me to the last. If my dross is all taken out it will be well. I can truly say I never murmur at what he does, for I am certain he will do right. When I look back and think on what he has done for me, and what he has brought me thro', it helps to bear me up a little hoping that perhaps all is working some way for my good in the end, tho' at present I cannot see any way before me. I endeavour to compose my mind as well as I can. and submit, saying thy will be done, all thou dost is right and just. Why should a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sin?

I have suffered much in body all the winter: my lungs oppressed and a violent cough: but for a few months my ancles swell much. Our Pro: are afflicted and suffering in various ways: I believe these things were best for us all. I have long been persuaded that there will be some kind of Revolution here some time or other; tho' God is forbearing long, on account of a praying few. Nay according to my views into the Bible, I think there must in the nature of things be revolutions in all the world, before the kingdoms thereof become the kingdoms of Christ. And even your States will be convulsed in time according as they become more populous, and the people become more refined and consequently more wicked. And they will be divided among themselves; and ambitious men will raise up parties from time to time, and so cause strife, and perhaps blood.

Tho' matters are quieter than they were in Ireland; yet I fear many are not yet satisfied and would be ready to rise if an occasion offered.

The B—s of K—c are going on in open wickedness: our uncle William is still living. R—— has great contests with the Bishop and other great folks &c he is also like to be at war with another set of men, I advised him against it, if possible: for they are numerous and powerful, & too subtle for him. I hope religion here, and thro' this kingdom is rather upon the increase among different denominations. We have a young preacher here now of very extraordinary abilities. We had a national fast a few days ago. The different Sects seem to be more loyal and united than they were ten years ~~past~~ ago.

I am much perplexed about my house, as not knowing where to go. I cannot go to the sea or country so soon as I wish. — Farewell! J. E.

What the event will be is only known to Providence. It has long been my oppinion that there will be greater wars, and more bloodshed than ever before the end; or before that time of tranquility called the Millennium. Many were writing and calculating that the time of the Millennium was near at hand. I never agreed with them. I think it is at a great distance: and many events are to take place first. The most sensible piece which I have seen upon the Millenium is written by Dr. Hopkins of Rhode Island: which I believe I mentioned to you in some former letter. I hope to hear again from you before the winter sets in. Let us endeavour to bear each other before the Throne, whilst we are in the body. "When will the affliction be o'er; when will the fierce agony cease? with those that are gathered before we press to the haven of peace" — &c I trust we shall meet in the that haven, and find the long-saught rest. ——— Farewell. J. C

Octr. 3 1803

My dear Sister

Some time after I wrote to you in Augt., I took a short trip to the sea at Dover; but did not get so much advantage as I expected. I am at this time very indifferent with a convulsive cough, to which I am ~~at times~~ constantly subject, but it is worse at some times than others, when I get any little damp. I thought therefore I would write you a few lines before the winter comes on: for it is probable I shall get through it with difficulty, if at all. I went last night to preach and administer the Sacr= at one of our small chapels, and had hard work as the cough was so violent, that I could scarcely speak three or four words at a time. My sleep is much interrupted at nights.

I got a letter lately from R---. Every letter is full of complaints of his afflictions, distresses, and exercises of mind, &c &c and it is probable they will not be less. It is well that we meet with these things, to wean us betimes from this transitory scene. He bids me tell you that — ++++ prophesying about the Bl--s is coming to pass: they are all going to destruction. &c &c— It is distressing to hear these things; tho' it would be worse if we were living in their neighbourhood. Perhaps it was best that our family have been far scattered. There are many things in the ways of providence, which we can't account for. Ireland seems to be in a bad way: wickedness aboundes; and judgments are coming upon the inhabitants. There has been a plot for another rebellion. It broke out in Dublin sooner than they intended: many have been taken up and hanged: and great quantities of arms, such as pikes and other things have been found in various places.— The papists are enraged greatly and disappointed, and they will scarcely work any. The orange men, on the other hand, are just ready to break forth and slay all the papists, so that one may expect dreadful consequences some time or other. R--- thinks that one of the last great struggles of popish Antichrist will be in Ireland. God ~~hath~~ has a controversy with Nations; and we are likely to have a share here. Great preparations are making to repel the French, who are threating to invade us every hour.

\+ + + + + lately sailed from hence for America: he will like to be in that noisy hasty world; and will be in his element. He made a great deal ado about Irish Missionaries; and got many accounts published &c. When G. & his wife were lately at R---s house, R. attacked him for having sent such acc^ts to be published: R--- cried, and confessed that ---- had desired him and others to write. — I am like to have trouble about my son in law's affairs; and I am not calculated for disputes at Law. — I have long been struggling to get some things finished before death; tho' I cannot see at present what will become of them. My children at present have not experience nor discernment; and oftentimes papers have fallen into hands, who did not make a good use of them. These thoughts often occur to my mind, as I am writing: but then, I say, O Lord thou seest me: thou knowest my intention: I leave it all to thee. I wrote a little thing lately, but it is very short, about the wisdom of Solomon or what it was that got him the name of the wisest man. The word wisdom has different senses. Sometimes it signifies learning, and knowlege of Saince. So Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. Sometimes it means policy in the government of a nation. In this sense Solomon excelled. But when it means piety or the fear of God; I think he was very deficient: and many were wiser than him in this sense.

I have almost transcribed the whole of the New Testament. I wish to finish it before winter. It has cost me a great deal of labour and pains for six or seven years past. I think that full justice has not been done to the Bible in some places, in the Translation: for, according to my view, there is no Calvinism or fate in it. We should justify God by all means, and not make him appear the Author of sin. — — — — Farewell. — — J. C.

London Dec 15th 1803

My dear Sister

About a week ago I rec^d yours of Octr 16th — and was glad to hear that you have been hitherto preserved from that dreadful fever, which has caused such havoc in N. York and some other places. I had heard very awful accounts in the public papers from those places, and therefore felt much for my friends there and elsewhere. It was very providential that my daughter did not go out there &c &c — — My health has been very precarious for five months past, having a complication of complaints; and yet I have struggled out on the Sabbath, which is a day of great labour with me; but it is more so at some times than others. Last Sunday the 11th inst. was one of those extraordinary days. In the morning I performed the whole duty at our large chapel in the city road, that is, read prayers, preached, and administered the Sacra^t and afterwards attended a funeral, all which took me up three hours and a half; then I went five miles to the west to Chelsea, ~~[illegible]~~ preached & admin^d the Sac^t in the evening. As I did not preach at the great Chapel since the 24th of July, I was thinking for some time past to struggle if I could now, as perhaps it might be the last, and I had some things on my mind which I wished to deliver before I go hence. In a letter which I wrote to R-- about three weeks ago, I told him of my task and the weak state of my body, and desired him to remember me in prayer particularly on that day. I believe I felt some efficacy from his prayers; for I was amazingly supported thro' the whole day.

the middle of the week that I get over it, and to prepare against the next Sabbath. And as I look tolerable well on the Sabbath morning, they conclude that I am very well.

A few days ago I got a letter from my daughter at Boston. She was not well at the time when she wrote; but had got thro' the winter very well. She likes the place and climate well enough; but feels at being so distant from us. She has no one with whom she can freely converse as a friend, tho' her husband's relations are kind. The Meth.^s have a meeting in Boston; but it is at a great distance from my daughter, so that she cannot attend it. I gave her Mr Fletcher's works: and she says that she profits more by reading one hour in them than by all the sermons she she has yet heard in Boston. She has a pretty good judgment in most things, and I trust she ~~[illegible]~~ will be directed by the Spirit of God to choose the better part. — If I am spared, I hope to write to you twice before winter; but my time seems to draw to a close. Let us pray for each other, whilst in these clay tabernacles; hoping that we shall meet where ~~parting~~ there will be no sickness or pain. You have heard before now that we are again about to suffer the consequences of war. We are to have more and more taxes; and we could scarcely exist before. — However, I see that the world never grows better, but rather more wicked, by prosperity: therefore I see that we must be corrected still more, if we will at all reform. I submit to the will of God: and endeavour to trace out his ways in all things that come to pass under the Sun. I have long been persuaded that there will be heavier judgments in the earth than have yet been before the end come.

My family are tolerably well. Give our love to all friends. Ch---- was very poorly when I heard last from him. — Farewell

J. C.

London Augt 16. 1803

My dear Sister

I rec.^d yours of the 25th of April. I had written to you a few days before, which I expect you have got by this time. The Season has been very hot for two months past, which relaxes me so much, and causes my legs and ancles to swell that I am scarcely able to stand it; and yet I have great labours on the Sundays, and scarcely get any sleep at night. However they must do ~~[illegible]~~ what they please: I cannot stand it; and they must do without me at last. I know the secret mind of the preachers is to have no more Clergymen: but some of the principle people here are for it. I bless God, that he makes me useful to the people still; and more so for a year or two past. I feel very feeble in body, and have had several attacks within these last six months; so that I can scarcely expect to get thro' another winter. — My mind is in general pretty calm concerning my family. It is vain for us to puzzle ourselves too much: they must learn by experience, by sufferings, and disappointments; and these things will teach them better

than all that others can tell them. Time is very precious; I want to finish
some writings before I go hence; but several things intervene to interrupt
me. One of those things I am writing is, to answer the question "Wherein did
the wisdom of Solomon chiefly consist?" The other question which I
am considering is — "Is the instruction of the lower class necessary
or important, considered in a political point of view?" Some great
folks want to keep the people in ignorence, and are afraid they will
become too knowing; and will not be subordinate to their superi=
ors. But I think otherwise; if they are properly instructed. I believe
that the rebellion in Ireland arose in a great measure from the ig-
norence of the papists; therefore they are the more easily misled by
designing men. It seems that another plot has been laying there,
and has been lately discovered. Several persons are taken up; and
great quantities of weapons or pikes, and other arms have been found
concealed in different places. A Judge and his nephew a clergy=
man in the coach with him were passing in a street in Dublin:
some of the papists who were drunk attacked and murdered them
in the street. But this was the means of discovering the plot in time
for they were preparing to seize on the castle that very night: but
these drunken fellows were too hasty; and thus Providence once more in-
terfered in behalf of that land.

I have not heard from A - - - for more than three months. I sup=
pose he is ill, or struggling with various afflictions. I got a letter or
two from **** some time ago full of mourning and distress about
his family. I can say but little to him. Every one will have enough
of trials and distress. Yet I trust all is working for good in the end.

Let not Sister S - - perplex her mind about her son: but rest ful-
ly assured that he is safely landed, where he shall feel no trouble; nor
meet with temtation. Oh! thrice happy they that have escaped the
dangerous rocks, against which others have been dashed, whilst sail-
ing thro' this tempestuous Sea! —— B - - may read my Expostula-
tion with *****: what is there said, may be applicable to her, and many
others on a like occation.

I hear there has been a decrease of upwards of two thousand among the
M - - in Ireland this last year. I fear this is owing to that noisy work,
and counting those to be converted, who scarcly know what it means.
It is more then probable that you will hear of some like declention in
your country. I hear that Dr. Hales of Killyshandra is writing against
the Meth.s shewing that their conversions are not real; condemns
their Doctrines, their practice, their ignorence, and enthusiesm &c.
I am much affraid that many are running to preach in this day, whom
God has not sent. Mr. W - - - meant well: but he laid a foundation for ma-
ny evils among his people; which will appear more evident in some time.
However there is an old saying — "every evil has its own cure". That
is, when the evil is carried to an extreme, it will then appear more ma-
nifest, and will correct itself. — The French are preparing to invade us: &
it is expected there will be great slaughter on both sides.

tho' in a very weak state, I thought I should have got all finished this last summer; but have been interrupted with another work; a Tract which I have written on a subject which I think is necessary in the present day: partly in respect to the Deists, who reject the Bible, and boast of their great knowledge &c. I endeavour to prove from many antient Authors that all the light that is in the world is derived to us, either directly or indirectly, from the Bible, and by means of the Jews: and were it not for this, these Gentlemen would have been as dark and ignorant as the most savage Indians. I have finished it about a month ago. It may excite some other to write more fully on the subject.
We have not got a letter from H— as yet: but in a paragraph of one of the papers here the other day, it is said; that that ship had arrived safe at Boston. However we have been in an uncertain ~~way~~ state of mind, for more than two months past. We have had no acc— yet from my eldest daughter, of the arrival of her and her husband at Boston; but X hope they are there by this time. There is much talk of a work going on in several places of Ireland; in some degree like that with you. Some of it has been near Belturbet or Butler's bridge. Many thousands have been added in Fermanagh for upwards of a year past. R— and T. the leader at Cavan dislike it, as they think there is too much of man in it. Nor do I much like these noisy works: tho' I don't say much about it, but wish to suspend my judgment to see the fruits. They that are for it, plead that some stand, and therefore it is well, if even a few are saved. I shall be desirous to hear from you, whilst we are on this side of Jorden. Farewell, till we meet on the other side of and part no more.—

J. C.

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My Dear Sister — Feb: 16th 1803

Your Letter written in Octr did not arrive here till the first of Jany. I suppose the ship had been in danger, which also delayed it. The account of your afflictions, and also of poor sister E— affected me very much. Ah! these things are not joyous, but grievous: yet I hope they will work in us a patient resignation to the divine will. We must by some way or other be weaned from this transitory scene; and cut off from creatures and all creature good. This is cutting work: it is the circumcising of the heart. May the Lord help us to be passive before him, and say "Father, do with me and mine as seemeth thee best."— I know not which of our family are suffering most. As for myself, I have been exercised for six months past both in body and mind, as language cannot describe. The Autumn was very fine, and the former part of the winter uncommonly ~~fine~~ mild. So that I got on pretty well, till the midle of Jan: when the frost set in very hard. Frost in general agrees with me; but being at a funeral, I caught cold, having stood out bare headed. I was then laid up; and have been ever since in a dangerous way. I am at present a little better: but very feeble; and the convulsive cough is very severe, and wears me down. I had a weakness in my back, so that I could scarcely stand or sit.

It is a rare thing with me to stay within on a Sunday: but I was forced to yield. I was obliged to do so before just at the time of my daughter's marriage being then very ill. These two times were the only ones these twelve years past that I was so confined: tho' I often struggled out, when I believe few would have done in like circumstances. I have lately had many painful reflections concerning my family, not knowing how to advise them, or what they will do. My daughter A— I suppose, must leave us soon, to go to her husband. His affairs here have perplexed me very much, and hurt both my body & mind. &c—

I got an acc:t early in Nov:r from S— that he & his family had arrived safe at Boston the 25th of Sep:r. She seems to like the country pretty well; but feels sensibly her absence from us. Her husband's friends have the form of religion; and her father in law is a truly pious man. As yet she has found no Meth:ts there which she regrets. She is naturally of a solid turn and I believe you will find her not devoid of sense. Amidst all my other labours last summer and Autumn I strove to collect some materials for a little pamphlet, which I have lately printed. It is intended chiefly for those who do not read or regard the Bible, if they can be persuaded to peruse things of this kind. I have not heard from Bro:r R— these six months. I fear he is in a very trying situation. R— is as much afflicted and tried as any of us. He is frequently seeming as at the point of death. Oh! what a world of misery is this, to pass through: but if we gain the haven at last, after being so long buffetted by the waves, the rest will be sweet indeed.— I hope hear from you soon; and will then write if spared.—

Farewell! To God's grace I commend you and yours &c J. L.

London June 16th 1803

My dear Sis:r

Some months ago I rec: yours of Jan: 10th I postponed writing expecting that my daughter A— wo:d have sailed in April or May but she is here still. I was taken very dangerously ill about the 20th of March, with a complaint in my bowels and stomach; which brought me very low. I got better by degrees, and was well till about a week ago, when I got a bad cold by attending a funeral in rain. I am constantly exposed in this way, and have risked my life a thousand times. I did not know that I should have to attend at funerals, before I came here. When look back at this and ten thousand other things which I have passed thro', I am astonished that I exist: but I must still say "O Lord, it was thy will: and it was by thy mercy alone that I still am spared. Surely thou didst intend all for my good, and thou wast most merciful when most severe!"— I am exceedingly relaxed and feeble, whilst I sit down to attempt to scribble something to you: but before this attack, I found my infirmities increasing; my memory, eye sight, and legs and knees failing; and I have not for many month had a single tooth in my head. Yet, amidst all this, my labours have been almost doubled to what they were several years ago. But the people say I look much better, and speak stronger than I did sixteen years ago. It seems also that they are in some degree profited by the word spoken; as they are desireous that I should speak oftener. But, oh! they little know what I go thro', for my fatigue on Sundays is very great, so that I scarcely get any rest for two nights and it is only in

tax should be taken off I would give something away: here is this for you; I think I cannot bestow it better, for I believe you will make a proper use of it." — He had given me, in the course of 16 years £200. — I believe you will join with me in giving glory to that God who has done such things. ~~[struck]~~ In Octr 1786, I recd in a letter by the penny post a £20 bank note; but I never knew from whence it came; nor can I guess. I dont think it was from any person in London. I was in great need at that time. I recd it as from the immediate hand of God; and I keep the cover to this day: the superscription seems to be that of an old person whose hand was shaking. My eyes are filled with tears of Gratitude at this moment: and I have not ceaced praying for the instrument since. — Probably they are long since gone into Eternity; and I expect to meet them there. Oh! what a God have we to do with! and what are we, or why are we so cold in his service! —

I got a letter lately from poor Brother W—— he is in a distressing way; feeling so keenly for his children, and some of his connexions upbraiding him; and saying, why does he not lay out some plan? He knows not what to do; and when he did attempt things turned out wrong. He says all is not gone yet, but going very fast. I think he is getting experience in the better things; and I have a hope that all is working together for his good. I have not heard from R—— since the beginning of May. He has troubles and afflictions too. And all will have enough, whilst in these tenements of clay. — The Clergyman, who used to assist me died in May last, after being confined three years: he was nearly 20 years younger than me, I am now alone; and have much to do, especially on Sundays. I hope to write to you now and then, while I have any strength. My family joins me in love to you and sister and all the rest of our friends. Farewell. J. C.

My dear Sister

London Augt 23d 1802

I wrote to you about a month ago, informing you that my eldest daughter was then to leave us in a few days. The sorrowful parting scene took place about four days after I wrote to you. We had been preparing our minds for a considerable time before; but found it hard enough when it came to the point. They sailed from Liverpool on the 9th of Augt The infant from its birth had been poorly. So I was forced to give them up to God, not expecting to see them again on this side Eternity.

But our tears had been scarcely dried when a week after, we heard a report that the ship in which my son-in-law H——ns had sailed about three weeks before, was lost, and every soul perished. We cannot learn the certainty, or the particulars. I leave you to conjecture the situation of our minds: and we must be yet a month or six weeks in dreadful suspence, untill we receive some account from America. I was much affected, and endeavoured to resolve all into the will of God; being persuaded that, however dark the providence may be, it will some way or other work for good in the end. After being a week thus affected in my mind, I went on Sunday 15th inst: to assist at one of our Chapels: when an old man

(Mr. Brook, who travelled a good ~~whole~~ deal in Ireland) in passing thro' here on his way to his live.t preached from Isai. 112. former clause of the fourth verse. It seemed as if God sent him particularly to preach to me (as I told him afterwards) for every single word was applicable to my then state; and it proved a most wonderful blessing to me. He mentioned many dark providences which afterwards turned out well; as Joseph's being sold into Egypt, cast into prison &c: but when he came to mention Job hearing of the destruction of his children, &c; you cannot think what I felt; and all the comfortable promises which he mentioned, I could lay hold of: and I still hope it will work for good, tho' I cannot tell how. In this state I remain, and (as I said) we must be long in suspence. I shall say no more, but leave you to reflect. You see we must be in anxiety about the other ship in which my daughter and her sickly infant are, till we hear of their arrival, which will be two months hence perhaps. - Farewell!

J. C.

X My dear Sister Octr. 10th - 1802 X

I recd. your letter of July 15th. we have had some accounts in the News papers that the fever was in your City and also in N. York; which has given me some fears on your acct. However, you are in the hand of a kind Providence, who hath done great things for you, and guarded you in perilous times. He is still the same, and it is good to trust him in all our concerns; at the same time that we take every prudent step to avoid evil. If you are spared, I hope to hear again from you before the winter; and I write this now, whilst there is a probability of its reaching you before your river is frozen: and before I may be laid up, or removed to another world. I have been tolerable for six weeks past, till a few days ago, when I caught cold being out in rain, which always hurts me very much. In Augt. and Sepr. (when the weather was hot) my legs and ankles swelled very much, and were uneasy to me. They have been so in the hot weather for three or four years past. I go thro' a great deal of labour still, especially on Sundays; when I am so wearied as to be scarcely able to get into bed. I get on strangely, and I believe many wonder at me very much. when they ask my age, and I tell them, they can scarcely believe me: I believe I look better in some respects than I did sixteen years ago: but I find many defects in myself; in memory, in sight, and other respects. I have many letters to write about the affairs of both my sons in law, since they left this; besides many letters to my friends; this takes up a good deal of time. But I likewise strive to buy up every moment in writing or transcribing other things. I know life is short; and time is on the wing. I have strove to transcribe some of the Translation of the N. Testament, which I endeavoured to make out for myself a few years ago. Much of it was so blotted or interlined that others would not be able to make it out, so I was obliged to set about it myself

my course with joy, and the work he hath given me to do! you may remind my children of these things, if you survive me; and exhort them not to be high-minded, but fear and tremble: and not to trust to uncertain riches, health, or strength; for they may soon experience a reverse. I believe they will all be industrious: but people may depend too much even upon their own industry and prudence.—

I spend most of my time in my room, writing one thing or other: I have written many long letters to most of my friends and acquaintance. It partly amuses me and is some comfort to the mind. Tho I am jealous of myself, for fear of lukewarmness; yet in general I feel pretty cheerful; and have no gloomy fears respecting futurity. But I well know I may be in a different way before death: and many pious people have had very great conflicts before they went off.— Give my love to Sister B—. I hope she will bear up; and take refuge in in God alone. May we all meet on Zion's hill, after getting our robes washed white in the blood of the Lamb!— Yours J. C

My dear Sister April 12th 1802

Through the mercy of God I am brought on thus far, and have had a better winter upon the whole than for many years past. I got a cold in the end of Feby but got over it pretty soon. There have been a great death of people here, partly of fevers, and colds caught by the sudden changes of the weather. There have been many sudden deaths of late; some of them my particular acquaintance. One of them I had nominated for my Executor. Another whom I had named for an Executor, died about six years ago; so that I am about to survive my friends; which is not pleasant. I was affected much this day at the illness of a preacher, the only one left, I can have close friendship with. My friend Blair is dead now just nine years; and if this one goes, I shall account myself bereaved. Oh! why am I left behind? May I be more refined, and made meet for the inheritance above! I walked four miles yesterday out of Town to visit a woman, who is ill some years; and her case is extraordinary. It looks like a dropsy; but the Docrs say it is rather a fleshy substance in the womb. She is swelled amazingly; measures near three yards round. A year and half ago I did not think she could live a month. She is now convulsed often, and can take little, so that I think she must soon go. She has been exceeding happy all along. Her testimony to me yesterday was this.— "I have a full assurance, not only that I am pardoned all my sins; but that I am cleansed from all unrighteousness. It is not a transient view: it is a full assurance." Thus we see there is a reality in religion; and here is the time to prove it, in such a situation. She has had good Spirits all along, which helped to bear her up. She is old, and quite worn thin: She says she suffers much pain at present.—

I wrote to you some time in Feby and gave you all I heard respecting our friends in Ireland. I have not heard from them since. I suppose they have trials enough, and will have as long as they are in this vale of tears. I have told Do— more than once not to give way to that desponding anxiety about his children, which he seems to do: for they can never get harder thro' than he did and I

may say nearly the same of mine. I do not see yet signs of true religion in them; but they are outwardly morral, and have a notion of industry. I think people are the better to be put to their shifts; for then they must exert themselves; which they would not do otherwise.

Some of our most judicious preachers here think that the work of religion in America will not turn out well, especially respecting the children. The making so much to do about them will ruin them and excite pride. There was something like it in some places in this kingdom a few years ago; but there is little good fruit to be seen now. Religion should appear as rational as possible, otherwise it is ridiculed more and more by the Infidels. This is called an age of reason; but I fear, that all classes are verging very fast to Infidelity. Formerly, there was too much superstition and creduality: now men are running to the opposite extreme, and will scarce believe any thing. I met in some book a tradition which the Jews have, that before the coming of the Messiah, all the world will be Sadducees. And when I mentioned this lately to a sensible preacher, he said that about three years ago a Jew here offered to lay a bet £100 to 5, that in ten years hence all christians and Jews both would be sadducees. I see it is verging fast towards it: I meet some who do not believe in a resurrection, nor in spirits, and such things. — Those words sometimes occur to my mind; — "When the son of man cometh, will he find faith on the earth?" — However, let us remember on whose shoulders the government of the world rests. And let us endeavour to live in our day, according to that light which we enjoy. ——

Peace be with you, and all my dear friends in your Country!

J. C.

My dear sister

London July 24th 1802

I rec^d your letter, dated the 9th of May. I am at this time well; as I have been for the most part for eight months past Ge-- -
This world is a world of shadows: all is transitory and mere emptiness at best. There are a thousand things, which are not at all to my wish; but I cannot help it. H---ns has left his papers with me, to do some bussiness for him &c. I would wish to have nothing to do with these things now; as my own affairs are more than sufficient to occupy my mind. I have some writings in hands, which I wish to get thro' while I have a little strength: the clouds the evening are near, when one cannot work: nor is there any pleasure in them. I see much to be done; and much more which should and might have been done: but Oh! time is past, and ever flying. Respecting the temporal affairs of my family, I must endeavour to make my mind as easy as I can; for, as I said before, there are ten thousand things which I dislike, but I cannot help it. — I have great cause to bless God for his dealings with me, and his mercies extended to me. I have struggled thro' many disagreeable things here, both in temporals, and in other respects: but hitherto the Lord hath helped me.
In May last a Gentleman (who has for many years been kind to me) sent for me, and gave me £100. saying to me "I resolved, when the incom

I was rejoiced to hear of the glorious work going on in America, I read the account in most of our Chapels; and gave Copies to several who desired it. I do not like noisy irregular meetings: however I trust some real and permanent good will result from this. The ministers and the people too should read and study well that book of Mr Edwards (which I mentioned before) concerning the affections; written about sixty years ago, when there was such a work in New England. I sent the acc.t to Bro.r R.— he makes some remarks upon the work at Drumgolah, about 20 years ago. He says few of the young people stood; but some of them returned again the most of the married women stood, and some of them died triumphant. There is a young man (grand son to M— of Ballymaccaroo) now steady, a leader, who rec.d the first seed at his uncle's Symonds on the Ballyhaise road from C—n. I believe there are some there still going on pretty well and some more raised up at or near Butler's bridge. R— was exceeding ill at Christ.s he wrote me a very affecting letter at that time, as he did not expect to survive many hours. I got another letter ten days after he was somewhat better. He has certainly suffered greatly in various ways, from time to time. He expressed great want of those who used to sympathize with him as they knew most of him. J. S— was up at Kilkenny some time ago, and brought a good acc.t of a Rector and his Curate in that City, who are converted and are made a great blessing to the people; that place was remarkable for wickedness and debauchery. I trust the Lord will raise up more and more every where, to make some stand against the torrent of vice that has been flowing over that land as well as this. I hear of several young pious men at the Colleges in Oxford and Cambridge, who, I trust, will be a blessing to the nation by and bye. — I suppose the papists of Ireland are cast down now at the thoughts of peace between England and France; as they can do nothing now. There are some in this nation too, who are gaining by the war, that are sorry to hear of peace. —

I have less of a burden on my mind, respecting my children: but yet there is no true awakening up their minds, respecting religion: and I must leave them to God, and pray for them. I am at a loss what is the best method for parents to take: for I meet with instances often of men who say that the strictness of their parents contributed to make them Deists, together with the inconsistent conduct of some who professed to be christians. This is a melancholly thing; but I fear there is much truth in it. My children have hitherto behaved well, and were obliged to work hard, and stay at home: I trust they will find the benefit of this hereafter: for many, whose parents scraped up a fortune for them, are not fit for any thing, and many of them even despise their parents. We have not determined on any thing for the two youngest girls yet. I strive to keep from anxious care about them: I know I must trust God, and leave it to him to provide. Hitherto he hath brought me thro' the desart, and tho' I have met many a hard blast, and had many a grievious weary step; yet I believe all has been working for good. 'Tis mercy all, immense & free: for, O my God, it found out me! I feel really that I am the very least in my father's house. I felt it in such a way as no language can describe when reading the Lesson for the day (Judges 6. 15.) in the barn where I began to give service in Feb: 1777. —

I got a letter from Bro.r W.— which affects me very much. He is passing thro' deep waters indeed; and his mind is exercised to the uttermost. Yet I trust all is working for his good. He says

he is crying mightily to heaven for help; and is getting some support, and some patience and a degree of fortitude to bear up; or he would totally sink. He desires me to read Job 36 chap from the 23ᵈ vers to the end. — Some of his words are ~~thus~~ "It is not so much poverty & old age meeting together (tho' these are bad enough) as other things which are best known to God. When my heart is bleeding, and my eyes flowing, my cry is, I deserve it all: God doth all things well: I have no complaint to make of him: and I have him still to go to." — Thus our family all suffer in various ways; and it is hard to tell who have suffered most. He says I can have no Idea of his feelings, except I can recollect what I felt and wrote to him 14 years ago. He says, "Sympathy does help a little, but Sympathy is a rare thing in the world; and they who have little of it make but a bad stand against trials or distress when it comes to their turn." — He makes many good observations in this letter; and I think he is getting a good deal of experience. We have all to learn the lesson of Experience: Sᵗ Paul had to learn it. It is said of the Israilites; God brought down their heart by labour (i.e. trouble and sorrow) then they cried unto him in their trouble; and he delivered them out of their distress. We should cry to him in prosperity too. —— I agree with you in what you say in one of your letters: it is well to have a God to go to, when there is no help to be gotten from man. Oh! yes, he is a very help in the time of need, yea at all times. I have been often here when I had no human friend to consult, or make my case known to. I was in a foreign land, far from my sympathizing friends; with whom I could converse only by letter; and that only now and then, and in a very imperfect manner. I was often in this manner, as if a storm was coming from one point, and I would look or turn to another point, and there another met, and so on to another and another; 'till the blasts came from every quarter: and then I was just obliged to stand quite still; and wait for God's deliverance, or to leave it to him to act as he thought proper. Now, this was the very best thing that could happen to me, tho' it was severe. Tho' I had to struggle with difficulties in temporals; this was nothing in comparison of other things. I did not make known my trials or feelings to my Wife: for she could not give me advice: and besides she had enough to bear and go thro' herself: and she might upbraid me in coming away from our friends and native land, to a people that treated us with rudeness and contempt. I could only say in my heart "Lord, thou seest me, and knowest all my intentions." — Well, he hath brought me thro' all, and supported me, tho' I can scarcely tell how; and when I look back, I am astonished how I did get thro': I have, thro' the mercy of God, by degrees conquered the prejudice of most all people: so that I am often invited & many complain that I do not call on them oftener; and shew me many acts of kindness. They get tired of most of the p - - - s in two or three years; yet it is the reverse with me, tho' I have been with them 10 years and more. — Oh! my eyes are running with tears at this moment, when I think of the goodness of God to a poor worm. Yet I have no cause to be elated at all this; but rather to lie lower than ever. I have thought for a year past, that my labours have been greater, and I believe much blessed, it is only a little lightening before death, and that my end is near. May I finish my

I know several young men who are confirmed Infidels, whose parents were Meth.– And some mothers who are pious, and of the higher class, have been lamenting to me about their daughters, not knowing what is the best method to take with them. They cannot with propriety compel them to dress like the very lower class; for, the children know that their parents can afford it, and they will dress like those of their own rank. They also find great difficulty in the employment of time, so as to vary it, and yet be inocent or useful. It is not necessary for them to work, only for amusement. The mothers are sensible women, and truly pious. It is a difficult point. R-- has his eldest daughter and the boy in class: the preachers advised it. But I am not much for this; he says them two have serious impressions; and he has strong confidence of all his children being finally saved. I don't wish to discourage him, let him hope the best: but I do not depend much upon what is professed by children (even when they are sincere) before they come to be tried, and exposed to the natural propensity of human nature. However, it is well to encourage early serious impressions: only, as I said above, we need wisdom to choose that method that may be best.— I believe I mentioned something in my last of what R-- said about young W. T. He thinks there is a great change in him for the better: if he should go out to America: thinks you will find the root of the matter in him.— I have not heard from S-- for a long time. I fear matters are like to go hard with him, especially as those who should sympathize with him only violently reproaches him &c. He was doing well at ++++, but was not contented: and by moving often people often lose all; or at least they make little progress. Some also by grasping at too much are often disappointed, or even lose what they have.—

Decr 7th Yesterday was a day of great fatigue to me: (as indeed every sunday is now) I get little sleep on Sunday night, and am two days or more gathering a little strength to prepare for the next sabbath; and so I work on strangely. But the people are profited; and this is some consolation. To God be the whole glory! It seems to myself that my outward work will be soon finished. Oh! that the great internal work may be also compleated in my own soul! I spoke last night from Psal: 90. 16. I spoke strong and loud for an hour; and afterwards admind the Sacrt to a great number: some of them seemed astonished at my strength, to whom I said, perhaps it would be the last I would speak to them. Our chief preachr said to me yesterday morning, that I seemed to be revived in old age, and they would give me more work: but I begged to decline it untill the spring; for if I am overwrought now, I shall be able to do nothing at all: and its to do a little than none at all. If I get thro' any way, I shall write to you by the first ship that sails in January.—
I give you on the back of this, (to fill up the paper) a little Extract, I wish that all useful knowledge may be diffused more and more: especially any thing that seems to throw light upon difficult passages of scripture.— My family are all better than they have been for some time past. The sudden changes of the weather here are very trying to every constitution.— Farewell! J. C.

Extract from a Dissertation on that passage Gen. 9. 25. 26. 27.
By the Revd Mr Green.

He places the whole passage in the following order:– "Noah said,– Cursed be Ham, the father of Canaan! A servant of servants shall he be to his brethren. And he said– Blessed be Jehovah the God of Shem!

For he shall dwell among the tents of Shem. And he said— God shall give Japhet, a large inheritance: and Canaan shall be their servant."— He thinks that two words (Ham the father) have been droped in the first line, by the carelessness of the Transcribers of the Hebrew copy: as he proves by comparing the Arabic and Septuagint Translations. Another line also has been trans=posed, or put in the wrong place, by mistake. Commentators have been puz=zled to shew how Japhet dwelt in the tents of Shem:" but, ~~commentators have been pu~~ their conjectures are not satisfactory. But, if according to Mr. Green and Bishop Newton, we read it thus—"God shall dwell among the tents of Shem";— the whole is plain; and the prophecy was exactly fulfilled. The true religion was preserved in the family of Shem, untill the time of Abraham. Then God separated him and his posterity from the rest of the nations; and fixed his dwelling and worship among them. They dwelt in tents; and God dwelt among their tents, when they traveled thro' the wil=derness. But the prophecy was eminently fulfilled, when Jehovah became incarnate, and dwelt among the Jews: (as it is expressed John 1.14. the ori=ginal word signifies tabernacled, or dwelt in a tent.)— The Inheritance of Japhet was, and is large indeed. His posterity spread thro' all Europe, and the North East parts of Asia: and it is supposed also that the Americans are descended from him; having gone out from the North East of Asia, where there are only narrow straits between it and America. And his posterity ac=cording to all historians, have been so numerous, that they have been obliged to send out Colonies from time to time to seek new places.

This prophecy also was fulfilled, respecting Ham. The Canaanites, Egyp=tians, and Africans were descended from him: and they all in time were either conquered, or become tributary, or slaves to the posterity of Shem and Japhet. Some of the Canaanites remained till the time of Solomon: but he made them pay tribute, &c. See 2 Chron. 8. 7. 8. The Canaanites who dwelt in Tyre or fled to Thebes in Baotia, or to Carthage in Afri=ca, were subdued by the Greeks and Romans, descendants of Japhet. And as many as remain of this race, tho' they may have changed their Masters, have not changed their state: but are in some way slave even at this day."——

Feby. 10th 1802

My dear sister

I have recd. three letters from you. &c It is a mercy, in=deed, that we can converse in some measure, though at so great a distance: and I indulge the pleasing hope that ere long we shall converse together in another place and in another manner than we do now. 'Tis true, we can con-ceive but very faint Ideas of that state, on which we are about to enter. We know not (saith the Apostle) what we shall: but if we are faithful to the end we shall be like Christ, and shall see him as he is. Let this suffice. May he make us meet to appear before him; and qualify us for those Mansions, which he hath gone to prepare for those that love and serve him here.

"Thrice blessed bliss inspiring hope, it lifts the fainting spirits up,
It ~~lifts the~~ brings to life the dead;
Our conflicts here shall soon be past, and you and I ascend at last
Triumphant with our head

I am a monument of mercy: and miraculously preserved to this time. I have been better this winter, thus far, than for many years past: Many people take notice of it; and I myself am astonished. Most people around me, and all my family both men and women have laboured with colds for three months past; and yet I have been free, tho' no person has suffered more than me in this way.

My dear Sister

Decr 1801

Yours of the 12th of Augt I recd. I think I wrote to you about the 14 of Augt and again in the end of Sepr which I hope you have gotten before now. Both my married daughters are with me at this time &c — I have been looking at the hand of Providence all along: and last Summer, when I was preparing my mind for a final Separation, things turned out contrary to my expectations, to keep both my daughters here this year, ~~on~~ on account of the business of their husbands. — I was wonderfully well from July till the beginning of Novr as the season was dry and very pleasant: but now I have got my old com= plaint a cold and convulsive cough; which has brought me low again; and I suppose it will now stick by me all the winter; as it did for five months last Spring. I have had great exertions and labour for some time, much more than some years ago: and I still struggle out on the Sunday, when I have much to do as the other Clergyman is still confined. I have gone also to several country places during the Summer and Autumn. The Lord supports me amazingly, and I am enabled to speak with more strength than many years ago. A physician here a friend, wonders at me: and says he thought 15 years ago that I could not live many months. I want to be more greatful to Him that hath done so great things for me: Oh! that I may be enabled to spend my last days to his glory and in his service. Surely, if it is his will, I would rather be re= moved entirely, than laid aside to be useless, as the other Clergyman is tho' he is 10 or 20 years younger than me. I see the hand of God in this thing also; and were you with me could enlarge upon it, as no one understands the matter as well as I do. — We go on pretty well here now, and are at peace: the congregations are pretty large, and in general solemn: and tho' there is no extraordinary outward stirr (as is sometimes the case) yet I hope good is doing upon the whole. However, the Brethn have gone far from their original principles in some respects, and are deviating more and more from their first call. I doubt if it will turn out better for themselves or for re= ligion. — But God is raising up pious men in the Church of England and the Colleges. — I have not heard from Bror Ch— for three months: he is constantly afflicted and often brought as it were to death's door. And he has severe trials from his neighbours, some of whom are great folks, and the lower class, who are labourers for the great, are very wicked. He thinks the people of that nation are not growing better by their late trou= bles and distress. Indeed I fear this will be the case in most parts too. We are now favoured with plenty of all things, and also with peace: but I fear the peo= ple in general will be more ungodly, and unmindful of that hand that has supplied their wants. Infidelity will prevail in every part of Europe more and more; as the French will have a greater intercourse, and will diffuse their principles wherever they go. Popery, it is true, has got a severe blow; but Infidelity will succeed in its place. Dr Hopkins in his Tract on the Millenium speaks clearly and fully on this head. I think with him on that point. — Tho' it is disagreeable to hear of divisi= ons among professors: yet, if we study well what human nature is, we shall

not wonder. Man is the strangest being in the universe; even after he is in some degree regenerate! I fear the improper conduct of some Meth^n both here and with you, especially their Teachers will be a means of increasing that evil above mentioned, of spreading Infidelity; or causing those that are so, to be hardened more and more. I believe the less close connection you have with these, the better; only you may hear them and attend the outward means: but the chief thing is to promote family religion, and in the closet. I have considered much about the manner of hearing among Meth^s. and the great number of means among them, & the great deal that they hear. And tho' at first sight this seems well, and was intended for the best at first: yet I fear it has not been attended with the desired effect. Why so? for want of digesting what they hear; and reducing it to practice in their families. It is like eating too much and too often: the Stomach is overloaded, and the body is not in health. I have written my thoughts lately upon this, and sent it to the public papers to be inserted. I have considered the nature of the human mind, and the construction of the brain with its connection to every part of the body. The fine threads or fibres of the body are all connected with the brain; and much depends upon the state they are in. Like the strings of a musical Instrument, if too much stretch-ed, or too lax; the Instrument will be out of tune. Observe a person after a fever or lingering illness, how weak their faculties, or mental powers. You may see a great difference in different persons in this respect. Now if the faculties of the mind, or powers of the brain are kept too long upon the stretch, or too tense; the person cannot retain, or digest; and so the labour of the preacher, tho' he may speak well, is in vain or not attended with the desired effect. It is well to have an appetite, but it is well to have digestion too, in order to acquire a healthy habit of body. Apply this to the mind. Different persons have different capacities; but they all have their limits, beyond which they cannot go. There is much preaching here, and the sermons very long: but I do not see a good effect from this, which caused me to send my thoughts to the printers. I am more and more puzzled what advice to give to young persons others as well as my own. I see so much evil in the churches of all denominations. Two men were at my house last week, who conversed freely with me. The one the son of an old Meth^t. here (whom I buried some years ago) the other an American whose father was a pious Minister, and whose mother is still living, and a good woman. They both say that the strictness of their parents was the cause of their having a total aversion to religion now. They go to no place of worship now. Being kept under restraint, they started to the opposite extreme when they got to be their own masters. The American says his father w^d. not suffer his children to take a little walk down to the end of the lane on the sabbath; and kept them in like prisoners. I think he has some compunction of mind still; and he says his mother writes him long and affecting letters which draw tears from his eyes. The other man I fear, is quite hardened. --- This confirms me in my opinion which I gave many years ago, and is printed in the last sermon I printed, which you may see. Oh! what a difficult task is here to steer in the middle or proper path, not going to either extremes.

none understands or sees but myself. It tends to make me magnify the Lord, and praise him for his manifold mercies conferred upon me who am unworthy of the least of them. —

I am striving to fortify my mind against the time of parting with my daughters: but fear I shall be overcome when it comes to the last. The rest of my family have a probability of seeing them again: but I have none. As to my going out, I have given up all thoughts of it. Besides, if I were even younger and stronger, I should find unwilling to form any new religious connection: and would meet with many things disagreeable in A——a. It is true, I have seen and met with many things among the Meth— here, that have disgusted me very much: yet I still prefer their doctrines and modes of worship to any others. They seem to me and to some others to be degenerating, and stepping farther and farther from that line, which Mr W— appointed for them. The higher Clergy here, and even the Governt.[t] begin to grow more jealous of them; and some things have been published on both sides. There are many pious Clergymen now in England, and more raising up in the Colleges: at which I am rejoiced, as they will prove a leaven to leaven the established Church. But it is strange, that all these and some more in Ireland are inclined to Calvinism, or established in it.

The work goes on in Ireland, especially in Ulster, as I hear, in a wonderful manner, by those called the Irish Missionaries: but I think it is very like that with you. When the passions are wrought upon violently and suddenly, it is not likely to be lasting, or attended with good effects; yet some few may stand. I prefer having the judgment well informed; and if there is a little warmth added, to enliven the affections; so much the better. I think I mentioned the book of Mr Edwards written upon the affections: get it and read it and recommend it to others. The preachers should read and weigh it attentively. —

I got a letter yesterday from brot.[r] W—. He is in a most perplexing way in many respects. His feelings for his children are too keen, and probably will bring him shortly to the grave. He can in some measure look to GOD. I have not heard from Robt.[t] for some months. He is mostly always afflicted in body and mind, as much as I am. Indeed all our family seem to have got pretty hardly thro' this vale of tears; but the great point is whether we have made the best use of these things. Certainly there is no merit in sufferings, no more than in good works. We are to be saved by the mere mercy of GOD alone. Oh! may we all gain the haven at last! Farewell — J— C.

P. S. I am grieved to see both here and with you, that religious Sects are forming worldly schemes in this day, and copying after the Church of Rome in antient times, tho in a different way, and under a different name. Now, this is a handle for the Deists and Infidels, to say that all Christianity is mere priestcraft &c. Thus the religion of Christ is hurt even by those who profess to be his friends.

My dear sister

Aug.t 13th 1801

I wrote to you about a month ago. I am a little better, but have several complaints which are wearing down my poor shattered frame fast. Yet I labour a great deal more than some years ago, as the other Clergyman is still ill and not likely to do any thing more in public. I am a kind of miracle to myself: and I think some are disapointed or kept back from administering the Sac.t &c, longer than they expected. I leave the whole to GOD: and if it should please him I would wish not to live long after I am become useless. Yesterday I had a solemn parting with my eldest daugh.r who is gone to reside with her Hus.d at Liverpool untill next spring. He has much business to do in this kingdom yet which detains him. My son in Law H-- is also detained longer, as he has within these few weeks thought about a new kind of corn mill, to be fixed in a ship or any vessel on any river where the Tide flows &c This late business has put him in a bustle, and he is unsettled. In some sense I am not sorry that my daug.rs are likely to stay in England this winter, as perhaps I may be released from the body before it is past. I endeavour always to mark the ways of Providence, and leave events to him. I had brought my mind to submit to the parting with my children, and was expecting it in a few weeks, when lo, circumstances turned out unexpectedly by any of us, to detain their husbands a little longer. I only mention this as a thought, as I suppose you will understand it. That Text has occurred to me several times of late, and I was thinking to speak from it, but have not yet done it. Prov: 3.6.

The French have for some months made great preparations to invade us: but I have had little fear about the matter, as long as the Seas lies between, and our Navy guards the coasts. However, I look above these things to the Governor of the Universe. Let us always acknowledge Him, and serve him with all our power, and love him with all our heart. To him I commend you and yours. May we all meet above to rejoice for ever.

Yours - J. C.

P. S. It is said that many thousands have been added the last year by the Irish Missionaries: but R- is of opinion that it is chiefly the work of man, and I am inclined to think so too. The priests are falling more and more in the eyes of their people: R- thinks they are ripening for a revolution as in France. Father Brady of Cavan parish had a quarrel with one of his people at C. (Connell) He beat the priest in the street, the priest shook off the dust of his feet against him: Connell then took some of the dust and thrust it into his mouth. Some papist soldiers look'd on and approved of what Connell had done. The papists are getting more and more into Deism, and I do not wonder at it.

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My dear Sister

Aug.t 13th 1801

I wrote to you about a month ago. I am a little better, but have several complaints which are wearing down my poor shattered frame fast. Yet I labour a great deal more than some years ago, as the other Clergyman is still ill and not likely to do any thing more in public. I am a kind of miracle to myself: and I think some are disappointed or kept back from administering the Sac.t &c, longer than they expected. I leave the whole to GOD: and if it should please him I would wish not to live long after I am become useless. Yesterday I had a solemn parting with my eldest daugh.r who is gone to reside with her Hus.d at Liverpool untill next spring. He has much business to do in this kingdom yet which detains him. My son in Law H— is also detained longer, as he has within these few weeks thought about a new kind of corn mill, to be fixed in a ship or any vessel on any river where the Tide flows &c. This late business has put him in a bustle, and he is unsettled. In some sense I am not sorry that my daug.rs are likely to stay in England this winter, as perhaps I may be released from the body before it is past. I endeavour always to mark the ways of Providence, and leave events to him. I had brought my mind to submit to the parting with my children, and was expecting it in a few weeks, when lo, circumstances turned out unexpectedly by any of us, to detain their husbands a little longer. I only mention this as a thought, as I suppose you will understand it. That Text has occurred to me several times of late, and I was thinking to speak from it, but have not yet done it. Prov: 3.6.

The French have for some months made great preparations to invade us: but I have had little fear about the matter, as long as the Seas lie between, and our Navy guards the coasts. However, I look above these things to the Governor of the Universe. Let us always acknowledge Him, and serve him with all our Power, and love him with all our heart. To him I commend you and yours. May we all meet above to rejoice for ever.

Yours — J. C.

P. S. It is said that many thousands have been added the last year by the Irish missionaries: but K— is of opinion that it is chiefly the work of man, and I am inclined to think so too. The priests are falling more and more in the eyes of their people: K— thinks they are ripening for a revolution as in France. Father Brady of Cavan parish had a quarrel with one of his people at C. (Connell) He beat the priest in the street, the priest shook off the dust of his feet against him: Connell then took some of the dust and thrust it into his mouth. Some popish Soldiers look'd on and approved of what Connell had done. The papists are getting more and more into Deism, and I do not wonder at it.

this rather hastened to conclude the marriages, before my death, and brought my mind in some measure to comply, and be reconciled to a parting, as I saw Death would, at any rate, soon part us. On the 4th of April they were both married in the parish church. It is impossible by language to express my situation; but I know you can sympathize with me. I shall always think of the sorrowful parting I had with you and my dear H.... and I hoped I would never have another such on this side the grave: but alass! my sorrows are not yet at an end. I expect to go down with sorrow to the grave. I am wishing now that this expected scene were past; for I fear I shall not be able to bear up at all. But some (who cannot enter into another's particular case or situation) may be ready to condemn me, or to ask, could not I forbid or hinder it if I pleased? I believe, if I had absolutely forbidden, neither parties wd. have desired to proceed. But, then I considered, if I attempted to hinder, perhaps it wd. be carried on without my knowledge or consent (as has often been the case, & the parents have been forced to come into what they at first were utterly averse to.) There is a propensity in human nature to act opposite, when there is a restraint put upon it; yea in things which before seemed indifferent. I knew some fatal instances here: one in particular. One of our local preach-ers (a rich man, and in business) had a pious modest daughter. The shop man, (also pious and well-behaved) and she took a liking to one another. The father was averse, and forbid; and sent away the daughter 30 miles from Town to a retired place to lodge with a female friend. The girl suffered much in mind and body, and frequently went into fits. I went to the place and slept in the same house when she was in it in 1790. I preached some times whilst there; and after re-turning from preaching one night was present at a most affecting scene. She fell into one of these fits, and we had to hold her down on the floor for a long time. The father after consented to their marriage. They live hap-pily, (the husband preaches, is humble, and modest) but she has suffered so much in her body, that her children are poor weak sickly things, and several of them have died; and the mother will be always delicate. I have reflected upon those things which I have heard or seen. Perhaps some may be ready to condemn me, and say this is false reasoning. I will say, however, that I acted with a single eye: that I neither sought this af-fair, nor ~~promoted~~ promoted it: but my fervent prayer in secret was, that God would overrule and prevent it, if it was contrary to his will. ——

If you will correspond hereafter, I hope, with my eldest daughter, and exhort her to watchfulness of spirit, to secret prayer and other means, in order to the end, to press after holiness of heart, and to avoid as much as ~~poss~~ she can conformi-ty to the world. I am endeavouring to make allowance for the different kinds of education, and different modes and customs in different countries, and among different sects, or denominations of people. What seems sinful to one, does not appear so to others; and quoting the Bible will not end the dispute; for each will put their own construction upon it. Notwithstanding I have seen and met with many disagreeable things a-mong the Meth=ds I always did, and still do approve of their doctrines, a-bove any other. My son in law H.... s talks of settling in Georgia; if so, my daughters will be a thousand miles asunder. But I must be resign-ed in this also. I feel myself utterly weak and helpless in every respect and and am therefore striving to say "Father, thy will be done!" ——

I can still trust him in every thing, and I will trust him even where I cannot see one inch before me. He has been very merciful to me, and has given me many proofs of his love and guardian care. As to what you mention of the disputes in your Society &c, I have seen and heard enough of it and is not ~~new~~ new to me. For which reason I do not mingle with such persons in any of their public meetings, except public worship: for my head cannot bear much noise, or dispute, and I want to keep my mind as calm as I can, and go down to the grave, without much notice. The disputes that have been in the Churches, and among Meth.ts as well as others, have always done harm in every age: but I fear it will be so, as long as human nature is what it is. Even persons that are sincere, may, from their different views, and different education, and various other causes see the same thing differently: and when each is very confident in his own way they get too warm, and often become intolerant towards each other. The effects of this have been dreadful in the Church. The misfortune is that the simple and undiscerning people are drawn in to support either party, and are made tools to support their measures. Crafty men, of abilities, can paint their own cause in very fair colours: and even a candid person, who wishes to consider both sides impartially, may often be at a loss to determine. They who have the least to do with public affairs, and serve God in secret, are in the safest way. I preach every Sunday, and sometimes twice. I have had more duty for two years past than for eight or ten years before.— The last accounts I had from Ireland are not more favourable than ~~what~~ I wrote you before. Our friends are all suffering, tho' in different ways. Farewell! Our love to all friends

Yours — J. C.

London July 18th 1801

My dear Sister

Yours of the 30th of May I rec.d yesterday: and this goes to let you know that I am still on this side Jordan. I am indeed a wonder even to myself: for I am dieing every day, and yet I struggle out again, and strive to do something, tho' with great difficulty, as my lungs are very much oppressed, and there is much phlegm which is difficult to get up. I have other complaints besides, one, which seems to encrease; and looks like a decay of nature; and perhaps ~~may~~ it will end in a disease a clergyman of my acquaintance died here two years ago of. He was near 20 years younger than me. As I am out on the Sundays and officiate morning and evening, the people do not think me so ill as I am; and they will scarce believe that I am so old as I am. And I believe my own family still entertain hopes, as I have been complaining and dieing for so many years.— I suppose I have mentioned in former letters that another Clergyman here has been confined to his room these last two years, and is not like to be well. This increases my labour on the Sundays. I can see the hand of God in these things in a way that w.d take up two much time to explain: and which

For, few or no Clergymen will join them: and they are not inclined to admit any more. Many alterations have been gradually made in Mr W—'s Rules except those which suited their own purpose. So that Meth—m and Meth—s wear a very different appearance from what it did 20 or 30 years ago. I believe it is partly so in Ireland; and I suppose in America too. They say there is a great revival in many parts of Ireland, especially in the North; chiefly by means of what is called the Irish Missionaries. R— thinks that most of the work is superficial; or like the seed which fell on the stony ground. This is often the case where there is much noise and bustle. A work of this kind has been in Cornwall the south-west part of this kingdom for 2 years past: but a preacher who lately visited them, writes me word, that they are going back in hundreds. He says that some who spoke publickly among them, used such expressions as these: — "Take hand-fuls of hell-fire home with you and scatter them among your neighbours." — and again in prayer — "Lord, throw shovel-fuls of hell-fire into these people's consciences, and alarm and awaken them." — I am afraid there is some thing like this among the Irish work. A I hear that one who is concerned in sending out these men will not mend the matter; as he frequently uses phrases little better himself. —

Our bro— R— is greatly afflicted in body, and often distress'd in mind on many accounts. His wife also is ill. He was up in a tree in his garden pruning it in Feb. coming down, his arm got into the cliff between two branches, and he slipped and his whole body hung by that arm; his little boy strove to hold up his feet a little, till his men came to his relief, who were working in the garden. When he was taken down he almost fainted. His arm wd have been all shattered and he would have lost his life; if they had not been at hand. — He knows not what to do. The country is in such a way, for murdering and robbing. 6 were hanged at Cavan lately. He was on the Jury. R— says that great numbers are going from ~~that part~~ those places, to America. A family are going from some part of the western coast, who are descended from a pious man, some years dead. His granddaughter had a vision or dream, wherein he appeared to her, and warned them all to fly out of Ireland; for that calamities were coming upon it; and that the French would over run it, tho' they wd be defeated in the end. — All things here below only serve to convince us day by day that this is not our rest. Oh! that we may be purged from every stain contracted here, and made meet for the inheritance of the saints above! There thousands and thousands of things and circumstances in this world, which we can not comprehend or explain. What do we know even of ourselves? Man seems to be the most wonderful creature in the Universe. Tho' endowed with rational faculties, yet he is acting contrary to reason, and to the approbation of his own mind at other times. This is remarked by some to be very often the case in marriage; that persons with a pretty good share of understanding, have seemed to act in this case very foolishly. Others are ready to say (in order to justify their own conduct) that there is a fate in marriage. I never could adopt the Idea of fate or destiny. I am willing to acquit God in all respects; and if man acts wrong, he is a free Agent; and therefore his faults should be laid at his own door. —

With respect to the intended marriage of my daughters, I can say that I did not seek it, nor expect it: and I was much averse to the first for some months. I have nothing to blame in my daughters; they have behaved very well from the beginning: and I believe, if I had absolutely forbidden, the matter w^d not have gone on. But my death being in all appearance very near, and o= ther considerations; I was gradually led to comply, tho' all things were not to my mind. I considered the leadings of Providence from the first, and am inclined to believe it was of GOD. Great trials will undoubtedly follow; but this must be in every station of life. I have no joy on the occasion; as the thoughts of soon parting rush every hour into my mind. I am also hover= ing between life and death every minute. I am constrained to give up all my children into the hands of GOD, who gave them a being. It is in vain to puzzle myself about them; for I cannot see an inch before me, for myself or them. I am kept from anxious care. That GOD, who has brought me thro' life thus far, is able to keep them, and provide for them too.

April 11th 1801. Since I wrote the above I have been in a dange= rous way, during the two last nights, and have just crept out of bed to seal this and send it off. It may be the last you will receive from me. All things beneath the Sun are uncertain. But there is a certain a= biding place above for those who are fitted for it here. May we be purg= ed from all iniquity, and made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light! I trust we shall meet there, and join the celestial choir in singing the song of Moses and the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

J. C.

My dear Sister June 8th 1801

I have lately rec^d two letters from you. I have been long anxious about you, as I had not heard from the 6th of Decr when you wrote, and you expected then to write soon again. Your trials in regard to your H— situation may account for the delay. We have often read and heard that this world is a time of trial: but most or all of our family know it to be so. Well: I trust our trials have not been alto= gether in vain; but will some way work together for our good in the end.— I am afraid you will have more trials soon; and therefore be prepared, and look to GOD. You must act with firmness and courage, at the same time that you pray for wisdom to direct. T— acknowledges that he has hitherto been looking for happiness in objects or ways wherein it can= not be found; and is convinced that permanent happiness can only be found in religion. I like what he says, and I have great hopes he will yet do well. His own experience will be of more use to him than all you or I could say to him. As to myself and the affairs of my family, I suppose you have rec^d some farther accounts by this time (for I wrote twice or thrice) What I have gone thro' in body and mind since that time, no language can describe.— It seemed about the 20th of April, as if my end was near; and

Our brothers have great trials too. R— in a late letter says, he thinks he has gotten his wife from the Lord: — that is, her spirit and manner is opposite to his; and they serve to correct each other. He often thinks of a simile I mentioned in a letter many years ago, of two rough stones rubbing against each other till both grow smoother. This holds true, not only between near relations; but between the people of a religious connexion: they are often more tried by each other, than by the people of the world. They know more of each other's foibles, and they make more ado about these little things, than the people of the world: and often it begets more enmity between them. Man at best is a poor creature. The Class-leader at Cavan says that some of the old seed is likely to spring up again at Drumgolah. On the night I first joined some there, a man named Hamilton spoke first and gave in his name, but never came after, till lately he and more of his family and neighbours were there hearing R— preach. He says there were many of the best people around to hear. He has been useful there and also at his own place: but he complains much of the ignorance and pride of some men. — There have been Irish Missionaries traveling every ~~circuit~~ where for 2 or 3 years past. They had a ~~contest with~~ pass from the Govern.^t but lately they had some contest with a Magistrate and a Clergyman at Clones, and the Govern.^t called in the pass, and then they took a licence as Dissenters. I suppose they got intoxicated with pride, and were insolent. There was little hope of their doing any good to the papists, who are still in darkness and bondage. It is said these Missionaries are useful to many protestants; and that there is a revival in many places: but R— has doubts about what are called revivals, or that the work is often only superficial, or like the seed that fell upon the rocky ground, and had not much depth. The account I hear of Ireland is worse and worse. The most daring villains have issued out in various places, robbing and murdering, breaking the doors with sledges and iron crows, even tho' the people within were armed and prepared. Many are hanged and killed; yet this does not stop them: they are become desperate and the famine and distress of the nation will make them more so. An acquaintance of our Bro.^r R. one Darren, was robbed and murdered two nights before he last wrote. I expect more melancholly accounts every day. Lord have mercy upon them! — R— has had great losses in cattle lately; and has many severe trials in other respects. He is often afflicted; but his wife is in a worse state of health. It is likely he will lose most of his property, and his life too, if God does not interfere. Hitherto the truly religious in Ireland have been wonderfully preserved. The times thro' all Europe are more and more perilous. Here it is the most gloomy that any one remembers. We are involved in more war; and all kind of calamity is the consequence. And some think we will not be better, even if there ~~should~~ were a peace; as our taxes &c, they will not lessen, but rather increase them. I hope is a remnant still that are standing in the gap, and interceeding for a guilty Land.

but things look worse and worse to those who take time seriously to reflect. Yet I fear hundreds of thousands do not take God into the account or acknowledge his rod, and are looking at second causes. Many are dying here, and I attend at the graves of those who were younger and stronger than me. I am a wonder to some, and even to myself. —

Bro.r mentions a Mr. McCutchen in the Co: Longford who died lately, and made no will. His eldest son takes all his property, and will give little to the rest of the children. A brother in law of Mr. C— also died lately and left no will, and left five small children. They were both Meth.ts and intimate friends of to B.— He seems to hint that he has lost something considerable by Mr. C— n which I suppose he had lent to be more secure. He thinks that he had some hidden, which the family cannot find. It is strange that men will live one day, without having their will by them. It is easy to alter it at any time if they see fit. Much confusion and enmity has arisen in families for a neglect in this matter; which might be easily avoided. —

It is a folly to harrass our minds too much about our children. I am striving to give mine up to God. They are his by creation, and by purchase. — My wife and three of my daughters have been poorly during these two months past; but are better. They join in love to you and yours. —

Farewell! J. C.

John Stephenson, a preacher, from Ballyconnell was here two years ago, going as a Missionary to Bermuda an Island near to America. He went to that Island and had many to hear; but after some time the Governor there were stirred up against him, and put him in prison and a man who rec.d him into his house. He wrote to me and Dr. C. July last. He preaches and exhorts still in the prison, and says he is very happy in his soul. Dr. C. is applying to our Gov.t here in his favour. I hope things will turn out for the better. The gospel will always be opposed by wicked men. Many of the Negroes were following him; and the Governor pretended that he was exciting these to rebel, &c, &c. —

My dear Sister

The last letter I rec.d from you was dated the 6th of Dec.r I wrote two letters about that time, and another in the end of Jan.y I hope you got some of them. I got thro' the winter very well till the middle of Feb.y when there was a sudden change of weather, and some snow: & I got cold, and it fell on my lungs; by which I have been dangerously ill, ever since. Indeed I can scarcely get thro' at all, tho I am obliged to go out frequently, both to read the prayers on Sundays, sometimes preach, and attend at funerals: as the other Clergyman (who used to assist) has been confined to his room about two years, and is never like to recover. The Pr—s are gradually stepping on to do things which only the Clergy used to do here; viz: read the prayers, and administer the Sacr.t I have stood in the gap for ten years since Mr. L— s death; so that they have not done it yet ~~here~~ in our great Chapel; but I think they soon will at least when I am removed. ~~So that Meth—— and Meth~~

With respect to this affair in my family, tho' I have related all the foregoing, yet perhaps the event may not take place: every day produces new trials and hinderances.

A few nights ago, I delivered to each of my two daughters above mentioned the form of renewing the covenant; desiring them to read the last part of it in Secret, and make a Surrender of themselves body and soul first to GOD. I encouraged them to trust him, and he would take care of them, for he had been my God, and had thus far provided for them and me, and brought us thro' the wilderness. I bid them be prepared for disappointments, for such we must expect whilst here below. They were silent, and I afterwards prayed with them. It was a serious moment.— whether this event takes place or not, I hope all things will work together for their good and mine. I told them, they were now at a most critical moment, perhaps the most so in the whole of their life. I have for some months been reflecting upon the goodness of GOD to me all my life long; and of his tender mercies, notwithstanding my unworthiness, and unfaithfulness. And I can assure you that tears of gratitude fall from me almost constantly.— "Oh to grace how great a debtor!"— Just this time 24 years I was in deep, conviction and ~~about~~ on the 11th of this month about six in the morning, I believe I was born of GOD. But, Oh! what have I gone thro' since that time. Tell my children of it when I am gone hence. Write soon again.— I am yours as ever ~~[illegible]~~ J. C.

Jany 26th 1801

My dear Sister

I have recd yours of the 6th of Decr &c &c——.

With respect to T—s moving about, as long as he does so, he will never do much good. That great man Dr Franklin in his proverbs says "I never saw an oft-removed tree, Nor yet an oft removed family, that throve so well as those that settled be, Three removes are as bad as a fire."

But to talk of returning to I—d is downright madness and folly. I will advise all that can, especially the poor, to get away out of I—d as soon as they can: for there will be nothing in it but misery, Slavery, and perhaps much blood. As to the union between it and this kingdom about which there has been great contention for some time, and it is now confirmed by Act of Parlt; tho' some here think it will be for the good of I—d; I have always been of a contrary opinion. If a few get richer, the greater part of the lower class, I think, will be poorer and more wretched than ever. Most of the people of property will come to reside here, and have their rents remitted to them; which must still drain that country, and the poor people not having the means to work upon will be just as the Jews in Egypt compelled to make brick without straw. They are murdering and robbing still in different places, tho' they are greatly suppressed by the soldiers quartered every where.

The potatoes failed there last year, and every thing else is dear: matters here are much the same, many perishing for want, and thro' bad food. In most parts of this kingdom things are rather worse than here, tho' great distress reigns here also. The judgements of GOD are manifest through all Europe, and I think will fall heavy yet more upon this Land and Ire—. I hope many do acknowledge the hand of GOD: but the greater part are still hardened; and were there prosperity, they would be still worse: So that GOD must lay on the rod heavier.—

I have learned a good deal of America from the Gentlemen who have lodged at my house: tho it is so large, there must be a great difference in many things in different places. I see every day that human nature is the same in every country, and in every clime. Your M—s with you are copying after those that are here. They love power and generally abuse it: especially those who are raised from low life, become the most insolent and overbearing: but as the people get more light and common sense, they will check the pride of such Teachers, and keep them within bounds. But there is a great danger lest Infidelity should increase by looking at the faults of Teachers and professors. It appears to me that GOD is making bare his arm in this country among the J— s. About two years ago one was drowned in crossing a river after preaching; another was killed with lightening; another hanged himself; some have lost the use of their speech; others of their reason, and some of the most famous are laid aside or useless, by a loss of their faculties, or derangement of mind. Yet they do not or will not see these things; but have a very high Idea of their Body, as if GOD was with them in a more eminent manner than any others. Yet many men are raising up in the Churches and in the Colleges, who are zealous, and like to do great good. It is strange indeed that most of these are Calvinists, or inclined that way: however as they preach Christ and lay him ~~for~~ as the foundation; they are like to do more good than others, who are Arians, Deists, or worse. It is a melancholly picture, to look narrowly into the Christian world, to see so little of the mind of Christ in it, after eighteen hundred years. But we must correct ourselves, and recollect what GOD said to Elijah, when he thought he alone was left. I trust there are many secret ones hidden in corners, in this ~~land~~ and in other countries, who are the salt of the earth, and do not bend the knee to Baal.— But with respect to the conversion of the world at large, I have my private opinion different perhaps from most people. I suppose I may have mentioned it to you before: if not, I will take another opportunity.

For some month past I have found much of the presence of GOD both in public and in private; and a greatful sense of his goodness to me and mine all my life. Oh! that I were more greatful and more faithful. Surly he is merciful, abundent in goodness and in truth. I have gone through great trials and afflictions for a great part of my life; but I believe all has been working together for my good.

In spring last, we were hard put to, to contrive to get thro', and things every day growing worse; as bread was three times as much as when I first came to London, and yet my salary the same: and other things nearly in the same proportion. ~~On th~~ With respect to Meth:ts I have reflected much for many years; and have much to say that I cannot comprise it in a Letter. I believe there are some of the very best people among them, and some of the very worst; and many of different degrees between these two extremes. They are altering in many respects, and introducing new modes and customs, which I fear will not tend to make them better in the end. The D--s are fixing a kind of system or worldly or human policy: and I think those with you are learning something of the same thing. They want to have an absolute govern.t over the people; like the popish priests of old: that the people may give up their will, their understanding, and their money too to be disposed of as they think fit. They contrive also to have the Chapels or preaching houses so settled, as to be in reality their own property; tho' they profess the contrary. And tho' there are Trustees appointed; yet these are only cyphers in respect to the management of matters, tho' they must bear the burden of the debt on their shoulders. And if any man has courage or honesty to stand forth in defense of what is right or consistant with common sense; he is represented as disaffected to the cause of GOD, or as Luke warm, or a promoter of Schism. But (as a writer above a hundred years ago saith) they who talk against schism are the very promoters of it; for by their conduct they force the people to make a division. It has long been a fixed maxim with me, that Simplicity and Godly Sincerity are the best policy to promote the kingdom of Christ. He saith his kingdom is not of this world: he doth not want his servants to use craft or guile or such like to promote his affairs. The people who do not see these things and worship GOD in sincerity, are in one sense best off. but then they are in danger of being imposed on in many respects by crafty men. Such a character; ~~who~~ who has studied low cunning; but very little of the wisdom that cometh from above. With an appearance of zeal, and mingling some truth with much falsehood, he imposes upon many. In talking for GOD, and the cause of GOD, some ~~people~~ mingle much of their own praise, or strive to make the people believe they are of very great consequence in the world. As Dr Watts says in a Hymn:

"The very songs I frame, are faithless to thy cause; and steal the Honours of thy name, to gain their own applause!"

G. B. and his wife are these two years on the C--r Circuit. He is a dupe to the D.r and holds him up: but she tells S.- much of her opinion, and sees things as I have hinted ~~above~~ to you. She has seen and known so many bad things, that she was nearly leaving them, and turning to the Quakers. — These things tho' grievious; should not move us. We know the foundation standeth firm: GOD had, and always will have a Church upon earth, that the Govern.t rests upon his shoulders; and he will see ~~to~~ to matters, where man is weak and blind.

When I study the Church in all ages; and when I understand the na-
ture of man, even regenerate man: I do not wonder at any thing I see or
hear: — I have lived to see some of the mighty and the proud, brought
low, or removed from the earth. Some are falling into disgrace, others
deranged in their understanding, some become silly; and others have
put an end to their lives; who once held a place among us, preached
Christ. &c &c and some of them were favourites with —— —
Two of these are described exactly in the Fable of the dogs. One with
a drawling tone: was the very pest of our Society being in favour at
court, and a busy informer &c he is lately fallen into disgrace and not
able to hold up his head. I always looked upon him as a base character.
He travelled some years ago in A— —. — The other was a great speaker,
but proud, and had no religion (it is supposed) for many years past. He
is the dog described as kicking the other curs, beating them, and despising
them &c &c He is now out of his mind, confined, and not like to speak
any more in public. — I could say many things of this nature, but
I had rather fill my paper with more profitable things. I believe God
is permitting these things among the Meth= to humble them; for they
were rearing their heads very high: but a man's pride will bring
him low, and so it will a people, and a nation. I believe God has a controver-
sy with this nation; and that very awful times are at hand. Tho we
have had the most plentiful crops this harvest: yet provisions are kept
up, up a the want to raise them. The avarice and iniquity of wretches
who have gotten wealth in their possession, and are grasping at more.
The lower classes have risen in many places on this acct but are
kept down by the military. However I fear they will be driven to des-
peration; especially when they are persuaded there is plenty.
Give our love to all friends with you. —— Farewell. J. C.

My dear Sister London Decr 1st 1800

I wrote to you in the end of Sepr by the Sai-
lor, who brought me a letter from you; and by whom I sent a box of
books. — &c &c —— (After mentioning the circumstances
that led to the affair of the marriage of his two oldest daughters, he adds)
If this affair be of God, you will say it is very extraordinary. —
I am just hovering between life and death. I can truly say, that I
never prayed for riches for myself or children; but my constant
prayer to God was, that he would raise up friends for them, and
protect them when I was gone hence. However the scene of parting
is so present to me, that I do not feel that joy that others would.
I know that death must soon separate me from them at any rate. —
We have all long been tossed upon a sea of troubles: yet each of
us must say — "Oh! to grace how great a debtor" — &c
I could not let slip this opportunity as I wish to let you know
every thing that happens to me and mine; and knowing also that
death is at the door, to prevent our corresponding much longer here
below —

My dear Sister

May 16th 1800

I have rec^d^ yours of the 8th of ~~[illegible]~~ March &c — There is no likely head of an end to this miserable war. Tho the seat of it is not here, yet we all suffer by it in various ways. We are distress'd here by the dearness of provisions and coals, as well as every other article. &c &c — — — I am greatly distrest in mind about my Son — who is in a losing way, I cannot change his nature, nor even my own. Every one will have something to struggle with and to cross them thro' life; and all must buy experience one way or other: but some buy it very dear. — I have got thro' the winter with great difficulty, having a most violent convulsive cough, which scarcely ceased many minutes for five months; yet I struggled out every Sunday and sometimes preached. &c — I have been wonderfully better for five or six weeks past, and have had a great deal of labour of one kind or other. The weather being dry helped me much but we have often sudden changes here, which hurts most constitutions. In Jan^ry^ and Feb^ry^ — some thousands died. Since I wrote the foregoing I have caught a bad cold, I am seldom free from this and it is long before I can shake it off. It is a suffering life; and mine has been strangely chequered: but if we can get thro' any way, and arrive in the haven at last, it will be well. I am afflicted these few days with a rheumatism in my head: and I get bad rest at nights, which brings me very low. I am generally worst on Sunday night after the exercises of the day. My head being so poorly I cannot study for any time, and I find my memory fail me and other faculties: so that every thing gives proof of de[cay]. I have got a letter from Bro^r^ G — with melancholly and dreadful accounts from Ireland. There is a famine there; and also a fever which is carrying off many. There is a dreadful scourge on that nation, and indeed upon most nations in Europe. God is shaking the nations for he has a controversy with them. Oh that men would learn to see his uplifted rod, and would humble themselves before him! They are making subscriptions for the poor, but money cannot be eaten, and is of no use when there is not bread in the land. Several persons had died in Dublin of want. ~~and~~ Yet wickedness abounds there among all ranks; and there will be more murdering work, or a civil war. a gentleman's fine building was burned near Killbeggan a few nights before he wrote. Murders frequent in that part of the country. I am rather better to day: but have much exercise of body and mind. ——— Farewell! — J. C

June 11th ~~Two~~ Missionaries travel thro' Ireland preaching in Irish, and sometimes in English. They stand on horseback in the fairs and markets, are zealous, and many seem affected. They have a protection from the Govern^t^ and are bold. Whether it will be attended with any great good in the end is doubtful. There will be mighty changes in these nations, and in all the earth soon, but I still think these are only the beginning of sorrows; and much more will appear and be done before the end. Oh! may we all watch and be found with our lamps ready whenever we are called for. —

My dear sister

Augt. 25th 1800

Yesterday I recd your Letter dated July 5th &c

Thro' the tender mercies of our God. I am just returned home, after spending a month at Dover. I got very great benefit, as I always have done by bathing, and the good air: but the night I returned home I lost it all nearly. I got rain and cold on the road; and my bowels began to be disordered on the road: but in the night I was taken dangerously ill. ~~with a ...~~ I was soon weakened very much, and am still somewhat so, tho' am better: but I have not ventured out on Sunday. I was very well walking on the high hills and near the sea shore: my mind also was more relaxed and at ease; for it had been much agitated for some months before with various things. — (We have two Gentlemen from America ~~[...]~~ boarding since the beging of May. This has been a help, and was very providential, as provisions were then at an enormous price) When I heard last from Bro. B— that kingdom was distressed even more than this for provisions: how the people got thro' I know not. B—s feelings have been always too exquisite about his children, and therefore he suffers the more: but I have told him his children will never suffer as much as he has done; and as God hath brought him thro' thus far, so he will bring his children also. — As to R— I believe he is as much exercised in many respects as any of us: and I hope all these things are some way working for our good in the end. Our family have had many favours conferred upon us, and what were we or our father's house, that God should look upon us. Oh! tis mercy all, immense and free. Let us then be thankful for the least of God's favours, and go on our way rejoicing, even tho' it be thro' tribulation: the time is short:—

"Oh! what are all our sufferings here, If, Lord thou countus meet,
With that enraptured host to appear, And worship at thy feet: &c

My family are pretty well, and join me in love to you and all friends with you. — Farewell! — Let us remember each other at the Throne till we meet above. — J. C.

Octr. 14: 1800

My dear Sister

I recd yours dated July the 5th &c — —

about the 1st I got cold and my old companion a convulsive cough which will probably now stick to me the whole winter. I have a great deal to do, as the other Clergyman has been confined about a year and a half, He is near 20 years younger than me: yet thus far I ~~have~~ struggle to supply his place and my own nearly. I am led often to reflect on the goodness of God to me and mine, notwithstanding my unworthiness, and unfaithfulness.

"Tis mercy all, immense and free."

"Oh! to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constraind to be a"

My dear sister London Jany 30th 1800

I have recd within these four days 3 letters from you with the bills enclosed. I had long been anxious about you and the rest of my friends in Phila as I heard the fever had returned. Dr C. has been twice in Ireland last summer and harvest. He call'd here a few days ago, read one night some great accounts of a work among the papists of Ireland by means of Missionaries who preach in Irish, on horseback in the markets &c— I pay little regard to what some says of hundreds being converted. I fear many understand little of what conversion means. It is true there may be a conversion from one opinion to another; or from one sect or party to another, but all this may be, and yet no change of heart, no subduing of the will, no regulation of the affections, or mortification of the carnal mind, no new creation or partaking of a divine nature. This is a great work, it is a work of God, and not too great for him to effect.— The more I study human nature, the more I see what a strange creature man is, even after he is in part regenerate. I see more and more the truth of that doctrine of having recourse every moment to a fresh application of the atoning blood:— or as it is expressed in some of our hymns:— "Every moment, Lord, I need the merit of thy death!" Perhaps there is truth in what some urge,— that we sin every moment: we come short at least, of what the divine Law requires, and therefore we need a Mediator or High priest to intercede for us.— I fear many of our people have used unguarded expressions in professing that they are sinless, or spotless, &c: and this has given the Calvinists and others to ridicule the doctrine of perfection. The hight of Christian perfection seems to be the depth of humility, and giving God our whole heart, will, and affections.— Our friends in Ireland is suffering in various ways, and they are like to have a famine, as we are like to have here. the papists and rebels are kept in awe by the army which is stationed every where, but their spirit is the same, and will breake out when they can. They do murder and rob still in various places. I'm persuaded more judgments awaits these lands; tho' the measure of our iniquities is not yet full. Oh! that our hearts were more disengaged from earth, and our affections entirely set upon things above. I do not find much atachment to things around me, but I take shame to myself that I am not what I ought to be, living every moment in the eternal world. I endeavour to make my mind easy in some degree about my family, tho' I must feel something foreseeing what they may have to pass thro. but it is vain to puzzle ourselves too much about what we cannot help. I have a hope they will be brought thro' some way. I have had a rough passage thro' life. And is not God the same still? He is and I will trust him. I have been very ill for 3 months, 'till within this fortnight, I revive a little. I am a wonder to many and to myself. I have just completed my 61st year. Farewell J. C

My dear Sister

London Mar: 1st 1800

I hope you will receive some time early in March the letters I wrote to you in Jany — Nothing very particular has occurred since. I have been rather better since then. but at present I have renewed my cough. — My son is at present very ill, and the rest have also bad colds. Multitudes died here. These kingdoms are visited with distress somewhat next to famine. Bread and every other sort of food is rising higher and higher; and it is thought there is a real scarcity in the land. And the French privateers are so numerous on the seas as to discourage persons from attempting to import grain from America or elsewhere. I got a most distressing acct from Ireland. There bread and other things are as bad or worse than here, scarce and dear &c. Besides this the whole nation is in convulsions about a question now agitated in Parlt about a union with England &c. Many protestants are now inclining to the union merely out of oppo of the papists, as thinking it the less evil of the two. I fear greatly there will be much blood spilt in that kingdom; and I don't expect it will be settled for many years to come. — Our family have been much tossed on a tempestuous sea; yet I hope all is working someway for good. Why should a living man complain? a man for the punishment of his sins — I believe it is best for me and my family that we are here; though we have had much to struggle with, and expect more. It is in vain to fly to other countries, to avoid crosses: God is visiting all places with a rod, tho' in different ways. And according to my views, he will visit more and more, for there is little sign of a general reformation even in these enlightened lands; how much less in heathenish or popish countries? Nay I am persuaded, if prosperity and peace were to take place here tomorrow, and continue for ten years; the most of all ranks would be more dissipated, and would forget God: so that when he chastises, it is to bring us to a feeling sense of ourselves, and to an acknowledgement of him. He doth all things well! "Good when he gives, nor less when he denies." — I am endeavouring to stand still, in silent expectation, and in resignation to the divine will. I have had many mercies among all my trials; and perhaps I am easier in my mind than hundreds who are far richer than me in this world's goods. yet I have great reason to complain of myself, that I am not more alive to God and living more in eternity. I have very little intercourse with mankind, even with those who are professors. I have seen and known too much among them that has lessened my confidence in them. yet I know some whom I think sincere, and there may be many thousands whom I do not know. God had seven thousand, whom Elijah did not know. I believe matters here among the Brethn and elsewhere, are pretty quiet; at least I do not hear to the contrary. —

There is bad accts from the country and from Ireland. There will be blood shed there; protestants now are divided against each other. — God has a controversy with all nations. I commend you to his protection. continue to write to yours &c.

My dear Sister

London Sep.r 14 - 1799

I rec.d yours of the 14th of July, I was glad to hear from you, as I had lately heard that the fever had broke out again in Phil.a — It is an awful dispensation. Much may have happened since you wrote to the present time: if you are spared I shall hope to hear from you soon. Life is uncertain every where. I have been very ill in July and part of Aug.t having got a severe cold &c &c I am now restored again. July & Aug.t was a time of continual rain which was alarming on account of the harvast. But as the weather is now set in dry, we hope it will save the grain. Every article of life is so risen here that the lower class, and even those in a midling way are puzzled how to live. As to myself and family I was never put to harder. and I have got thro' the world as hard as most people. But I have other things besides this to exercise my mind and patience &c — — — C— talks of going out to Philledelphia in Spring; but I don't wish to trouble him with any of my affairs, nor do I wish any of my friends to have any thing to do with him as he is too subtile for them. It may be best for you to ~~be~~ be private, for you might get more harm than good by being more intimate with those who act publickly, because there is too much intrige and craftiness; if human nature is the same in your part of the world as it is here; which I suppose it is. I see more and more cause to be disgusted with some professors of Christianity every day; especially those who take upon them to teach others: and I do not wonder at that infidelity which abounds in the world; because discerning men will easily draw a conclusion where the see the conduct inconsistent with the profession. The world, I believe, will not be converted in the ordinary way of preaching the Gospel: (Tho God will have a few in every age, as a seed) but he will in the end work in some way which no man can at present foresee, that his hand may be manifest, and that it is his own work. I think the Jews will be brought in some way like this too. A Mission is sent out to the South Sea Islands chiefly by the Calvinists: The first ship got safe and left several persons and some of their wives in those Islands, but we hear they have been obliged to leave it. A second ship was sent out in the beginning of last winter, which was taken by the French, and most missionaries are prisoners, we hear, in some of the Spanish parts of South America, one or two got to Philadelphia. Yet they are making collections and preparing to send out another ship with more to try again.

I believe Ireland is pretty quiet now; as Military keep the people in awe; and the French are defeated this year in all parts. However, my views from the Bible give me to see that there will be more and greater wars yet in the world, before the end; tho' perhaps there may be a peace now and then for a time. — We have had rejoicings here on acco.t of victories in Holland & elsewhere. If you are alive write to me. Farewell! J. C.

My very dear Sister London Decr 12th 1799

I have been for some time greatly concerned and anxious about you and my other friends with you; as I ~~h~~ have heard dismal accounts from N. York and Phila — of the fever returning there this year again. — Surely God's judgments are abroad in the earth; and he is visiting nations in various ways. Oh! that men would acknowledge his hand and humble themselves before him! We are suffering much here and like to suffer more, though not in the same way with you or other places. It has been a most melancholly year all through, except about twelve days in the beginning of Sepr. The greater part of the grain is lost, and the grounds are laid under water, so that they cannot be sown with seed for the next year. Our Government have thrown open our ports for corn to be imported free. The case has been much the same in Ireland as here. There is also much disturbance in some parts of that kingdom still. many murders and robberies: they rob the mail coaches, &c. The spirit of the papists is stirred up more and more ~~an~~ against the protestants and wish to exterpate them. People here are put to their wits end, and not knowing how to get through &c &c —— my old cough and other things have set upon me near two months and I expect will stick to me during the winter. Though I can hardly expect to survive, as my cough convulses me, and will probably break a blood vessel at last. I have also a great hoarseness, so that it is with great difficulty I can read or speak. It is wonderful how I have struggled thro' for many years, whilst many younger than me are gone. Another Clergyman here with us (Mr D—n) near 20 years younger than me has been unable to do any thing for four or five months &c. Another (Mr Dean who was with us here a little while after I came, left us, returned to Ireland for a few years, then got a church in the north of England and was seemingly well in every ~~respect~~ He died here a little after last Christs — left a wife and 2 Children. So that tho' I have had uncommon afflictions and trials, yet my gracious Master has mingled mercies with them. Oh! — yes — 'tis all mercy, unmerited mercy — immense and free! — Our family have experienced much of the kindness of GOD, in mingling afflictions and mercies together. We may use those lines of Watts's: "Oh! what are all our sufferings here, if, Lord thou count us meet? &c" God is long suffering indeed; how often is he obliged to correct again and again, in order to bring his rebellious children to a perfect submission to his will, and to wain them from this world! —— I believe I mentioned in a former letter a book on the millennium, by a Dr. Hopkins of Rhode Island. He thinks there will be a great spread of Infidelity and irreligion for a considerable time before the Millenm — I am inclined to believe so too, and the present times look as like it. D. C. speaks of going out to America in the Spring. He is publish- a Bible with large notes, in numbers. it is supposed to be seven years in publishing &c. — I suppose he collects the notes from various Authors; but he has neither leisure, abilities, nor judgement for such a work. Mr C also (one of our preachers an Irishman) is going to publish one. Poor people can not afford to buy such large works. Tho' I suppose Mr C will produce something clever. —— ~~I~~ many pains, in this worn tabernacle. I hope we shall meet in a better one, not subject to decay all glorious within

— Amen J. C.

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London Sepr 14 - 1799

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— Amen J. C.

sense take to our selves: —— "Go thy way till the end: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days." — We might conclude even from natural reason (supposing there had been no Bible) that things will not, nor cannot always continue as they now are. GoD's creation here has been defaced and spoiled by sin; but he will restore all to order again, nay make them more beautiful than before. As Satan and sin have had their reign upon this earth; ~~before~~ so there will be a triumph over them even on this earth before it is burned. Christ was humbled and crucified on this earth; and he must reign on it, and gain a compleat victory over all his enemies. See Rev: 19. from ver. 14. to the end of the Chapter; and compare it with Isaiah 63. and six first verses. I think I have mentioned this to you ~~before~~ some time ago: but I repeat it, because I know it is frequently misapplied and misunderstood. It does not refer to Christ's Sufferings, but to his victory and triumph over his enemies. The 53 chapter relates to his Sufferings; but the 63d. to ~~his~~ a time which is not yet come. —

There is much opposition and hatred to the Bible at this day, and even in this Land: but all the efforts of men and Devils will never overthrow it, tho' they may get great power for a while, and may deceive many. Let us strive to fill up our place, and live according to its precepts: and let us pray much for our posterity, that they may be preserved from that dreadful contagion of Infidelity which is spreading far and wide in this day. Some of our friends is still struggling on thro' various afflictions and exercises of body and mind. In whatever place or clime we dwell, afflictions and trials abide us. We must sail (as others did) thro' a Sea of troubles, before we can enter the haven of rest. Oh! that we may all meet there at last! —— Farewell! J. C.

London June 10. 1799

My dear Sister

I rec.d two letters from you &c. — I thank GoD I am much better for more than a month past. We are still suffering in various ways on acc.t of this dreadful war, which I fear is not near ~~over~~ an end yet; tho' the French are beating now in Italy and on the borders of Germany. It is shocking to hear of such dreadful shedding of blood even of our enemies. But GoD is shaking the nations, and taking vengeance on them for rejecting him and trampling on his Laws. — It looks as if your country would also be involved in war, unless this check of the French should be in your favour. The wicked are a scourge in the hand of GoD: and it does not alter my views, whether the French or the Austrians gain the victory; for GoD is punishing both, because both have ~~sinned~~ been guilty. However, all these are but the begining of sorrows, (according to my views of the Scripture,) We shall not live to see much of these things which are coming on the earth; perhaps our children may, tho' they will only see a part of them. It is ~~in~~ vain for us to burthen our minds about them in such things as we cannot prevent. We must pray for them, and commit them to Him who hath brought us through an howling wilderness. We have reason to speak well of him, and encourage others to trust in him. —

I had a letter last Nov.r from Sister T— She says her face is still towards Zion. Truly we are far scattered; but if we all are gathered in and meet above, it will be all well. I trust our disappointments, & other trials here below are all working for our good some way or other. tho' certainly these things are not joyous but grievious. —

A man here who has embraced Mr Winchester's opinion, in conversation with me, said the _lower parts of the_ earth meant hell and that our Lord went there to deliver those who had been bound there, &c. This is an old opinion. But I denied it. That phrase in the Creed was inserted about 300 years after our Lord's death— "He descended into hell." That Creed, and all the Creeds are only human compositions, and were made long after the Apostle's days; but were supposed to contain the doctrine which the Apostles taught. I believe that sentence thus — I believe that Christ departed unto the invisible or separate State, whilst his body lay in the tomb; and I think it means no more than this. As to what some say about his going to triumph over the Devils, and deliver those that were bound, I look upon it as absurd: but I consider Christ as GOD, who is every where present at the same time; therefore he _can triumph_ over all the powers of darkness in an instant, without moving from one place to another. If GOD is said in scripture to _come_, _go_, _move_, &c it is only speaking after the manner of men, and to accommodate the language to human Ideas. The other opinion would give me too low an Idea of Christ, whom I account the eternal, omnipresent, omnipotent, and self-existent Jehovah. But when he assumed human nature; he is called Christ or the Messiah; who came to reconcile the world to himself. GOD appeared in various ways to the patriarchs of old; but in this last dispensation he appears as a man, and is therefore said to speak to us thro' his son, i.e. thro' the human nature. We are also said to see _GOD in the face of Jesus Christ_; for we cannot see the essence of GOD, except he cloathe himself with some form. —

I hear that the work of GOD is rather low in most parts of Ireland; and that many of the preachers are not able to feed the people with proper food. Whether this is true I know not; perhaps the people have increased in knowledge more than their Teachers in proportion. It is certain in this kingdom there are very many highly enlightened men in the Churches, — We hear there has been a very great work in Cornwall, and that some thousands are added within this year. If religion increases, I would still hope that GOD will spare this guilty Land. But Oh! the Sins are great and numerous, among the very highest and the very lowest. The good that is, I think is mostly among the middle classes, except what is among the Meth.s who are chiefly gathered from among the lower class. Many bad books are printed and Infidelity abounds. The Papists also here are getting great boldness.

I commend you all to GOD and the power of his grace. May we all meet on Zion's hill to join the innumerable company! Amen &c

I think there will be more and more blood spilt every where. because the Lord has a controversy with all nations; and is coming out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth (Isai. 26:21.) The Americans too are likely to have some troubles, and some of their cities have suffered greatly by the late fever or pestilence. From my views of the Scriptures I foresee greater calamities yet in all the earth; and the end is a great way off still, tho' some think it is near. Many prophesies are to be fulfilled; tho' some are now fulfilling. ~~respecting Popery~~ I think the 17th Ch: of the Rev: is now fulfilling respecting Popery; and the French are one chief instrument; perhaps they will next pull down Mahomet, (the false prophet) or the Turkish Empire, and make way for the restoration of the Jews to their own land. I look at the events which are coming to pass and endeavour to compare with the Scriptures, to see what prophecies are fulfilling. The wisest know very little; yet it is the business of every one to strive to see a little. Some things which I fore saw have come to pass, respecting France; and many things have I foretold (respecting Mr ---s) which have come to pass, or are coming to pass every day. I might say many things more concerning this nation and the professors in it; but they would not bear it. I should be accounted as Micaiah — our friends are afflicted in various ways as usual &c

Thus are we all tossed upon a boisterous ocean hard toiling to make the blest shore. — I might fill sheets of paper about these things; but what would it avail? we must suffer as well as others. But what are all our sufferings here, if we at last shall gain the happy port! I must confess my fears and troubles have rather been greater for half a year past, than some years back, respecting my family what they must go thro'. I do not distrust God, but I have less and less confidence in man, even professors; and I have seen and known so much as were enough to puzzle me, had I not thro' mercy got some little experience of God first. I know God is still the same; and I know there is a reality in religion however men may act or speak. But worldly policy has ruined the church in every age.—

. I see no sign of peace; but more and more signs of blood over the whole world. The Russians are coming to assist the Germans against the French, and our Govern-t are also engaged in that matter. It is plain to me that the French are the rod in the hand of God to scourge the nations, and bring them to a due humiliation. Though people here are railing against the French, as being so wicked and profane; I don't mind this; for they who speak so, are not much better: and there was a need for a change of some kind or other in every nation; for they who in power, abused that power, and did not administer justice to the poor; therefore God is about to punish them. If you look into a great part of the prophecies and Psalms, you will hear God loudly complaining of the cruelty and injustice of these, and therefore he declared vengeance against them.—

J. C.

My dear Sister London May 14: 1799

After a very long, wet, and cold winter & spring I have struggled through thus far in a wonderful manner. The oldest living here do not remember such a season. There is a most melancholy prospect of grain for the next year. We fear there will be a famine. They are raiseing the price of bread already; and butcher's meat is at an enormous price: &c. Though we do not see the blood that is shedding in other countries; yet we are suffering in various ways in consequence of this horrid war. Our taxes are rising higher and higher, so that they who were in a decent way can scarcely live &c &c —— A variety of other circumstances concur to make the people there (Ireland) in very trying situation. Their minds also have been greatly agitated all the winter and are still about a Union which the Governm^t^ here want to bring about, i.e. to join the Parl^t^ of Ireland with this. Most of the protestants are dissatisfied, and many of the great men are opposed to it. If this is brought about it is thought it will hurt Dublin greatly; but some here think it will be for the advantage of Ireland in general. I do not pretend to determine this point; nor can I enter into the political views of Courts; for they are all full of artifice and intrigue; and too many of those concerned are not God-fearing men, and all have an eye to self-interest.

We must endeavour to make the best of this bad world, and strive to get thro' it as well as we can. We are told in Daniel that a time shall come when the Saints shall possess the kingdom, and then justice and equity will be administered on earth: but who shall live to see this? I believe it is a great way off yet, tho' some have been calculating it will commence in less than 50 years: I do not think so; tho' I know God can do a great work in a short time. Popery has got a great downfall in France, Italy, and some other places; but it will not be totally done away for some time longer. Mahomet is next to be brought down; then the Jews are to be restored to their own land; and even after that there will be greater wars than have been yet; before the reign of Christ will commence. There has been much blood shed lately in Germany and Italy; but all that we have heard or seen in our day is (in my opinion) only the beginning of sorrows. To think of these things may cause one to shudder; yet I am not moved in one sense; because I know they were foretold, and I see the Scriptures fulfilling every day. I know every tittle will be accomplished in due time: and I am satisfied in my mind, when I reflect on whose shoulders the governm^t^ rests, who superintends all the wheels, and will give the kingdom or kingdoms to whomsoever he will. What was said to Daniel, all of us may in some

many thousands of the lower classes of them have been slaughtered,
yet there are some small parties still plundering and murdering
now and then. The kingdom is full of Armies of one kind or other; and
many of the protestants are as bloody minded towards the papists as
they were towards them; so that I know not what the end of those
things will be. The Lord Lieutenant (Cornwallis, who was former-
ly in America) is striving to moderate them, and is said to have done
much good toward saving Ireland. It is manifest to every thinking
and serious mind that GOD has a controversy with the nations. He
is visiting some with the sword, and others with a pestilential fever:
and yet how few, comparatively, lay these things to heart or learn
righteousness. — We had lately here a day of public thanks=
giving on account of a victory gained by our fleet over the French
on the coast of Egypt in Aug.st last. I preached on that day at one of
chapels from Psalm 90. 16. I believe that Psalm was composed by
Moses upon the occasion mentioned in the 14 ch: of Numbers;
when GOD sent a pestilence or a plague which sudenly destroyed
many thousands of the Israelites because they murmured, on the
report given of the Land by the ten spies. Whilst Moses beheld
the dreadful death of thousands around him, he intercedes and
wrestles with GOD in their behalf, and breaks out into these pa-
thetic and mournful reflections on the shortness and uncertain=
ty of human life. — I had just rec.d your letter with the melan=
cholly account of Phil.a, which led me to the subject of this
psalm. I did not dwell on politics or the subject of the day: but
endeavoured to lead the people's mind to look at the works of
God; his works of judgment in some nations; and his works of
mercy towards us. GOD as a sovereign, has a right to punish
nations, yea extirpate them entirely, when they have filled
up the measure of their iniquity. This he determined, respecting the Canaa-
nites: and perhaps Moses here alludes to this, praying to GOD
to accomplish that work; that both the Israelite might see it, and
that the heathen nations might be struck with awe, and oblig=
ed to confess the GOD of the Jews to be the only supreme GOD. —
He also prays that the glory of GOD may appear to their children or
posterity. The glory of GOD here may mean his glorious power in per-
forming that wonderful work. In this sense it is used by GOD himself
(Num: 14. 22) they had seen his glorious power in Egypt, in the red
sea, in the wilderness; and yet they began to doubt but their children
Did see it, in the falling down of the walls of Jericho and afterwards in
many instances in subduing the Canaanites. The word glory is taken
in various senses in Scripture; some of which I mentioned. Very
often it signifies splendor or brightness. So GOD appeared in Glory
to Moses in the bush: in a bright cloud or pillar of fire to the

Israelites: in some luminous way on the mercy seat between the cherubim: Christ appeared to the three disciples on the mount in glory or a very bright splendor: we read of Solomon in his glory, his splendor: there is one degree of glory or splendor in the Sun, another in the Stars &c. glory may also sometimes signify that beauty put upon the bride; she is all glorious within: she is adorned with white linen &c. we are changed from glory to glory &c. It signifies also the state of felicity which Saints shall enjoy with Christ, when they shall behold his glory. I concluded with a spiritual application, and exhortation to attain the inward glory the image of Christ, the beauty of holiness &c. — I have since heard that the discourse has been much spoken of and approved. I desire to give the whole glory to the giver of every good gift. — And I have given you this short scetch to fill up some of my paper.

I see that more calamities will come upon the nations, and this will have its share in time. I see the Scriptures fulfilling; and great events must yet come to pass, before the kingdom of Christ is established on earth. I am persuaded that more and more revolutions must, in the nature of things, come to pass before men become true disciples of Jesus Christ, or yield themselves up entirely to his sovereign sway. Farewell! — J. C.

March 12th 1799

My dear Sister

About the end of Novr I recd yours dated the 23 of Sepr. From the iminent danger you were in when you wrote I have had great fears for you or some of yours; and as I have been waiting untill now with longing expectation I had almost given up hopes; but I have been revived a few days ago by an acct from Bror W. who got a letter from you &c. This has been a long dull winter to me as I am constantly alone in my room, and only strive to amuse myself with books. All my family have had by turns colds, and coughs, & are not yet free from them. Tho we have not war yet in this land, yet we are suffering greatly by it, and likely to suffer still more; as I think there is no sign of peace. You have heard of the calamities of Ireland; but not one half. There have been several murders & robberies during the winter by parties, and even continue still; notwithstanding the whole kingdom is full of Armies of various kinds. There has been a new contest, during the winter, by a plan proposed by our Governt to bring the Parlt from Ireland and join it to the English. This has been greatly opposed in Ireland, and roused up many of the protestants who were before for Governt. It is now said the Governt is going to support the popish Clergy some way that they may influence their people to support Governt. It is strange how our Governt is supporting popery at this day; whilst it is pulling down in the papish countries. But our Governt do it upon political principles, not that they care any thing about any religion, no more than others in this day. —

many of the chief leaders were hanged, and others in prison; and several thousands had been killed in battle. But in the latter end of Augt. the French landed some Troops on the west coast in the county Mayo, and afterwards got possession of Castlebar. They defeated a part of the king's troops, but in some time a greater force was collected, who compelled them to surrender at discretion. This fresh disturbance must have agitated the whole kingdom very much, when it was in some measure settled. I fear greatly there will be a famine there this next winter as both parties have neglected their labour. The counties of Wexford, wicklow, part of Carlow, and Kildare suffered most. Many towns and private houses burned or destroyed, and the country in a great measure wasted of ~~its~~ inhabitants. The Govern.t is now making some provision for those loyalists who suffered in their property &c. The Methodists for the most part escaped; very few of them lost their lives. One or two of the preachers were just going to be put to death, when the rebels were frighted by some of the king's forces coming near, or something of that kind. At Monstereven there is a small society, who took up arms and join'd the king's forces: there were two who at first hesitated to take up arms, but afterwards did it, and joined the rest. The town was attacked by a great number of rebels, who were defeated and very great numbers of them killed. The Methodists fought nobly in the front of the battle: not one of them was touched except the two before mentioned, one of whom died of his wounds. Mr. Averell (the clergyman) was in the town at the time, and was in a garrett with some women and children praying: now and then he used to look out of the window, and saw great numbers of the rebels fall at every shot fired by the Methodists and the troops with them: so that it is plain the Lord fought for Israel. The Meth.ts throughout the kingdom are in great esteem now with Govern.t. The Lord has a controversy with the papists as many thousands of them have been slain and several of their priests. ~~and~~ In some places they wanted the protestants to be baptized by their priests and so receive their religion; if they refused, they were to be killed with pikes directly. I suppose the papists will be crushed now more than ever, as it is plain they are not to be trusted, whatever they may pretend to. Yet the protestants and the nation at large are not are not alive enough to a sense of the favour of God, and of his judgments ~~impending on~~ which are abroad in the earth. Here too the generality of all ranks are as dissipated as ever, regardless of the hand that protects them, and of his judgments impending on every hand. I see calamities will more and more take place here, and in all the world: and I am of the same opinion I was two years ago, when I preached on our general fast day from Hosea 5.15. We are not yet truly humbled as a nation, so as to seek God in right earnest: therefore we must be brought down by some means or other. What is applicable to individuals, may often be applied to nations and collective bodies of men.

A man's pride will bring him low. When Jesurun waxed fat, he kicked.— I find the States of America are likely to be involved in troubles as well as others. And if God does not visit with the sword, he can do it by pestilence, or some other means. Oh! when will men learn to submit to his chastening rod, and when his judgments are abroad in the earth, learn righteousness! I got a letter lately from ** ** He is still afflicted both in body and mind, and has been greatly agitated in these troublesome times. He was often going to fly if he knew where to flee. There is scarcely any safety any where, except the Lord keep the house and the city. I cannot see it clear to bid him remove, for other calamities may meet him in any other. We shall all be sufferers in one way or other; and perhaps we shall see hereafter that it was best for us. "But what are all our sufferings here If Lord thou count us meet with that enraptured host to appear, and worship at thy feet." Give joy or grief, give ease or pain, take life or friends away: but let me find them all again, in that eternal day!" I have been ill for more than a month with different complaints. I am wearing down for many years, but the time of my removal seems drawing very near; therefore, lest I should not be able to write, I scribbled this in haste, to let you know how matters are here. &c - - - I must leave my family to Him who has brought me thro' thus far. If they serve him, he will be a Father unto them and a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.— Farewell, in the best of bonds Farewell! — J. C.

L. S. At Kilbeggan, in the Co: Westmeath, brother Wm. daughter was there in the beginning of the rebellion. That town was attacked by the rebels, who entered it at three ends at once. There are but few protestants in it. They mustered in the street about thirty, fired on the rebels, and kept up the fire till the rebels retreated of whom 200 were killed: not one of the others killed, and but one slightly wounded. As soon as the rebels got into the street, many of the inhabitants joined them. But the Lord fought the battle. This affair was a wonderful display of the power of God. The rebels seemed to have no power to hurt them, but the protestants shot them like Dogs.

Decr. 14th 1798

My dear Sister

I lately recd. yours dated the 23d. of Sepr. and rejoiced that you were thus far spared, amidst the danger around you. When I heard by the public papers that the fever had again visited Phila. I was filled with anxious fears. I wrote to you about the end of Sepr. some time after I got yours dated in June. In some of my last letters I gave you an account of the dreadful calamities in Ireland; but they have far exceeded any description of mine, or those which you have seen in the public papers. The rebellion is pretty well crushed, as most of the leading ones have been either killed or hanged, or have surrendered themselves.

My dear Sister

I have rec^d your letter by Dr C. It is best for you not to ~~puzzle~~ trouble yourself about those at the head of affairs lest looking at their conduct should puzzle you too much. The more retired you are the better, though the conduct of some, brings reproach upon religion, and wounds Christ in the house of his friends. However you know there is such a thing as real religion; and endeavour to hold it fast. Whatever others do, your safest place is by the side of Christ, and shelter yourself under his wings, untill the indignation, or storms and trials of life are over-past. And blessed be God, the time is short: let "patience have its perfect work, and we shall soon enter into rest. "Thrice blessed bliss" &c.

There is much distress here in all kinds of business, as the manufacturers are obliged to discharge many or most of their people for want of employ. We are burthened with taxes, and the whole nation like to be ruined. Ireland I believe is worse; and tho' the rebels are kept down at present by a numerous army, yet I hear there is much murmering at Govern^t especially for putting them under military law, so that the soldiers may do what they please. I fear there will be much blood shed there yet; for God has a contraversy with these nations as well as others. I see the scriptures fulfilling every day; tho' Infidelity abounds ~~among professors. This tends~~ every where, and there is but too little of heart felt religion even among professors. This tends to harden Infidels, and confirm them in unbelief that the religion of Christ is a mere farce. What is very distressing is that the children of religious parents are of this number, I have hinted a little at this in the sermon I sent you enclosed. I was desired to print it by one of the Stewards at the time I preached it. I never expect to get in this world one half of what these books cost me, but I leave them as a testimony behind me of my sentiments: I never had a view to any profit by any thing I ever printed. — As to D^r W I suppose he is like some here, who bustle in public and aim at pre-eminence; but have little of the mind that was in Christ. The truly simple, who are nearest Christ, have lived in the valley, and are little known to the world. — The following lines were written by Mrs Guion in prison; in France, she suffered much persecution in her day.

"My dearest Protecter! see how they detain
My life in a dungeon! yet let me remain
While such is thy pleasure; for better no doubt
In a prison with thee than a palace without!

I wish'd to be thine from my tenderest age:
No lovers beside have I saught to engage:
In every probation to thee the recourse
Of my soul, in the grave is its only resource.

What else can I do, so surrounded with foes
But fly to thy goodness which heals all my woes?
When my hair shall grow white, and infirmaties shake
This old shatter'd fabric, thou willt not forsake.
I was formerly pained when I saw night and day,
That innocence suffered in walking her way:
But since I have learn'd, we are summon'd to prove
By the weight of our sufferings the weight of our love.
Love perfect and pure goes farther than thought:
None knows, till he proves it, how dear twill be bought
Yet 'tis well worth its price, and a thousand times more
Since it brings us to heav'n when our labours are o'er.

Afflictions of various kinds abide us here: but if we at length arrive in the port of ease, all will be well.— My life is chequered with afflictions mingled with many mercies. My word (when I speak in public) is more blessed I believe to the people, and I have greater freedom than formerly. I have no fear of man, except the cunning and craftiness of some, with whom I have had connection; but for a few years past I am obliged to keep at a distance, and I find it is my safest way. I hope there is good doing here and in various other places. and that among all denominations: yet the mystery of iniquity still works among the professors of religion; and Infidelity is boldly erecting her standard and walking in our streets with a most audacious assurance. I have perceived this much for a few years past among the lower class, since they have read Paine's bad books. I am frequently attacked in the streets at noon day, sometimes with sneers, sometimes with curses, and sometimes with arguments affirming that the Bible is an imposture, that it contradicts itself, and therefore ought not be credited or read. I have not heard from our friends in Ireland some time. Their situation is very precarious in these perilous times. but I trust the Lord will shelter them under his wings till all the storms of life are past. I am very poorly at the closing of this letter. I can only commend you to the Friend that sticks closer than a brother. May He bring us all to meet at his right hand above!—

Farewell! J. C.

London Sep:r 14. 1798

My dear Sister About six weeks ago I wrote to you, and gave you some account of the melancholly state of Ireland. Matters were beginning to be more quiet, as the rebels were mostly crush-ed,

Some Account of the Rebellion in Ireland, in 1798.

For some years there were risings and tumults in various places; so that the Governm.t found it necessary to put different Counties under military law; and at length the whole kingdom was proclaimed. Several of the insurgeants had from time to time been executed. They still continued to form a plan to overthrow the Government, and masacre all who would not join in their plan. The had different oaths which they administered; for it is now said that the papists had a privite oath for themselves to murder even those protestants who should join them, after they had effected their purpose in overturning the govern.t and destroying the Nobility. They held a Committee in Dublin, which was surprized and their papers taken, which led to great discoveries. Lord Edward Fitzgerald (brother to the Duke of Leinster) was a principle person in this Committee, and they held it in the Duke's house, tho' the Duke was not there. Fitzgerald escaped at that time, and lay concealed in Dublin for some time: a thousand pounds were offered for taking him. At length he was discovered (it is said by a servant maid) in a privite house in Dublin. A party with two or three Officers went to the house at night, got up to the room where he lay: he attacked and wounded them both; one of them wounded him, and then took him, and lodged him in jail. One of the Officiers died of his wounds, and Fitzgerald afterwards died of his wound in prison. Upon this occation their party being enraged, would wait no longer. They rose in Kildare and near Dublin, and intended to seize the Cannon in the park and the Castle, and in the Confusion, a Sweep chimney was to set the Castle and principal houses on fire. The Army and Yeomandry of the City flew to arms: also Troops were called from different parts to repair towards Dublin. Some of these who had been quartered at Cavan, the rebels attacked their baggage guard at Dunboyne and slaughtered them all. This was about 24th of May. They defeated parties of the Army for some time: they cut off a body of horse yeomandry in one place: in another they burned alive a party of the regulars. After a short time they were beaten out of Meath, Dublin, and Kildare. Then the County of Wexford rose, with a part of Carlow; tho' it is thought their army was composed from various parts of the kingdom. In the County Wexford they were so numerous, that the king's Troops were obliged to retreat to the Fort of Duncannon; and small bodies of them were entirely cut to pieces. The rebels formed a great camp at a place called Vinegar-hill near Enniscorthy, County Wexford, and had a strong post at Arklow and soon that whole Country was in their power. The king's forces were drawn towards them as fast as possible; and intended to hem them in. A strong body of rebels near Ross attacked the king's forces, but were repulsed with a loss of 2 or 3 thous.d. Here the Militia of the County of Cavan fought nobly, and got great applause; they were led by their Col: John Maxwell. After these battles, the king's Army proceeded to attack the rebels grand camp at Vinegar-hill. They had nearly surrounded them; but they got thro' in one or

two places, and retreated in different collumns, towards Wicklow, and one strong column towards the County Kilkenny. A part of them marched to Wexford with a black flag flying (which is the signal for masacre) and began directly to murder the protestants whom they had in prison there. They had got about 70 murdered throwing their bodies over the bridge into the river. The king's forces were near at hand in pursuit, and six horsemen asking leave to gallop on, coming to the town, the rebels thought the whole army was at hand, desisted from the murder and fled out of the town: by which the remainder of the protestants were saved. Before this they had burned about 120 alive in one house: at another time they bled a large number to death filling tubs with their blood, and then would leap into the tubs to have to say they waded to their knees in heretick's blood. They ravish'd the Ladies and women, and then cut them to pieces: they tossed children about on their pikes; but after some time they desisted from murdering the women and children, but killed the men. After this the rebels flew out of the County Wexford to the mountains of Wicklow; then back to Kildare and round Dublin, burning and plundering every where. That party who ran towards Kilkenny thought to get the Colliers to join them, but they would not; then they were met by the king's forces who beat them back to the County Wexford and took from them 700 horses. After this some of the Wexford rebels passed down into Meath and near Drogheda; but many of them were killed, and several hanged in Drogheda. Govern.t got some information that the County Cavan was going to rise and encamp on Sleave Glagh; but several troops both of horse and foot of the yeomandry of Fermanagh came suddenly to Cavan, by which the papists were kept ~~down~~ in awe. But though they are now kept down in great parts of the kingdom and the open rebellion is in a great measure crushed, the spirit of the papists is still the same; and they are more enraged in having so many thousands slain, and on account of the severe measures which were taken against them. There is a new Lord Lieutenant gone there, who has published a proclamation of a pardon if they will lay down their arms and be peacable. Some of them are come in on these terms. — —

I find you are likely to have troublesome times in America, by the French, who are disturbing all the world. They are the rod in God's hand to scourge the nations for their rebellion against the Most High. I think there will be greater scourges and wars in the world yet than have been, tho they have been bad enough. What a strange creature is man! how inveterate against his own species! I heard from my two Bro.s lately: they are tolerable in health; but knows not ~~where~~ what to do or where to go. It is in vain to fly from the cross; It will meet us in every place and in every clime. my family are tolerable, but we can scarcely live every article is so high.

Farewell. J. C.

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For some years there were risings and tumults in various places; so that the Governm.t found it necessary to put different Counties under military law; and at length the whole kingdom was proclaimed. Several of the insurgeants had from time to time been executed. They still continued to form a plan to overthrow the Government, and masacre all who would not join in their plan. The had different oaths which they administered, for it is now said, that the papists had a privite oath for themselves to murder even those protestants who should join them, after they had effected their purpose in overturning the govern.t and destroying the Nobility. They held a Committee in Dublin, which was surprized and their papers taken, which led to great discoveries. Lord Edward Fitzgerald (brother to the Duke of Leinster) was a principle person in this Committee, and they held it in the Duke's house, tho' the Duke was not there. Fitzgerald escaped at that time, and lay concealed in Dublin for some time: a thousand pounds were offered for taking him. At length he was discovered (it is said by a servant maid) in a privite house in Dublin. A party with two or three Officers went to the house at night, got up to the room where he lay: he attacked and wounded them both; one of them wounded him, and then took him, and lodged him in jail. One of the Officiers, died of his wounds and Fitzgerald afterwards died of his wound in prison. Upon this occation their party being enraged, would wait no longer. They rose in Kildare and near Dublin, and intended to seize the Cannon in the park and the Castle, and in the Confusion, a Sweep chimney was to set the Castle and principal houses on fire. The Army and Yeomandry of the City flew to arms: also Troops were called from different parts to repair towards Dublin. Some of these who had been quartered at Cavan, the rebels attacked their baggage guard at Dunboyne and slaughtered them all. This was about 24.th of May. They defeated parties of the Army for some time: they cut off a body of horse yeomandry in one place: in another they burned alive a party of the regulars. After a short time they were beaten out of Meath, Dublin, and Kildare. Then the County of Wexford rose, with a part of Carlow; tho' it is thought their army was composed from various parts of the kingdom. In the County Wexford they were so numerous, that the king's Troops were obliged to retreat to the Fort of Duncannon; and small bodies of them were entirely cut to pieces. The rebels formed a great camp at a place called Vinegar-hill near Enniscorthy, County Wexford, and had a strong post at Arklow and soon that whole Country was in their power. The king's forces were drawn towards them as fast as possible; and intended to hem them in. A strong body of rebels near Ross attacked the king's forces, but were repulsed with a loss of 2 or 3 thousand. Here the Militia of the County of Cavan fought nobly, and got great applause; they were led by their Col: John Maxwell. After these battles, the king's Army proceeded to attack the rebels grand camp at Vinigar-hill. They had nearly surrounded them; but they got thro' in one or

two places, and retreated in different collumns, towards Wicklow, and one strong column towards the county Kilkenny. A part of them marched to Wexford with a black flag flying (which is the signal for masacre) and began directly to murder the protestants whom they had in prison there. They had got about 70 murdered throwing their bodies over the bridge into the river. The king's forces were near at hand in pursuit, and six horse-men asking leave to gallop on, coming to the town, the rebels thought the whole army was at hand, desisted from the murder and fled out of the town: by which the remainder of the protestants were saved. Before this they had burned about 120 alive in one house: at another time they bled a large number to death filling tubs with their blood, and then would leap into the tubs to have to say they waded to their knees in heretick's blood. They ravish'd the Ladies and women, and then cut them to pieces: they tossed children about on their pikes; but after some time they desisted from murdering the women and children, but killed the men. After this the rebels flew out of the County Wexford to the mountains of Wicklow; then back to Kildare and round Dublin, burning and plundering every where. That party who ran towards Kilkenny thought to get the Colliers to join them, but they would not; then they were met by the king's forces who beat them back to the County Wexford and took from them 700 horses. After this some of the Wexford rebels passed down into Meath and near Drogheda; but many of them were killed, and several hanged in Drogheda, Govern.t got some information that the County Cavan was going to rise and encamp on Sleave Glagh; but several troops both of horse and foot of the yomanrdry of Fermanagh came suddenly to Cavan, by which the papists were kept ~~down~~ in awe. But though they are now kept down in great parts of the kingdom and the open rebellion is in a great measure crushed, the spirit of the papists is still the same; and they are more enraged in having so many thousands slain, and on account of the severe measures which were taken against them. There is a new Lord Lieutenant gone there, who has published a proclamation of a pardon if they will lay down their arms and be peacable. Some of them are come in on these terms.——

I find you are likely to have troublesome times in America, by the French, who are disturbing all the world. They are the rod in God's hand to scourge the nations for their rebellion against the Most High. I think there will be greater scourges and wars in the world yet than have been, tho they have been bad enough. What a strange creature is man! how inveterate against his own species! I heard from my two Bro.s lately: they are tolerable in health; but knows not ~~where~~ what to do or where to go. It is in vain to fly from the cross; It will meet us in every place and in every clime my family are tolerable, but we can scarcely live every article is so high

farewell. J. C.

pulling it down, than we could have thought would have been done in some hundreds of years. I look upon the 17th chap of the Revelation to be exactly fulfilling at this time. GOD is avenging the blood that had been long ago shed by means of the scarlet whore. He is coming out of his place (Isai: 26.21.) to punish the inhabitants of the earth &c:— The blood is said to be covered while it is not avenged; but now the earth dis=covers it, that is, it is avenging. The souls of the martyrs are represented under the alter as crying— Lord, how long dost thou not avenge our blood? Tho' He may delay long, and give sinners and sinful nations a space to repent; yet he will come to avenge with a rod. He bore long with the Canaanites, (a hardened race) and when he promised Abraham to give their land to him and his posterity; he said their iniquities were not yet full: and it was four hundred years after when Joshua took possession of it. We may learn much from the historical part of the old Testament, and of GOD's dealing both with the Jews and other nations: and from thence we may conclude how he will deal with others also. Some have been writing to the Jews of late years, and some have preached to such of them as would come to hear. Others have sent out Missionaries to some Islands in the South Seas to convert the heathens. Tho' I approve of the zeal and design of both; yet I do not expect much success from either. I believe the Jews will be converted or acknowlege the Saviour, in an extraordinary and sudden manner; or in some way that the hand of GOD alone will appear in it; and when the fulness of the time is come, they will all return: and then they will be a means to the conversion of the heathen world. There may be individuals of the heathens brought to a knowlege ~~of~~ GOD and the truth: and he will always have a remnant or seed upon earth, as the first-fruits of a future harvast. This is my private opinion, which I have not learned from any other person; but I mention it that you may reflect on it hereafter, if you live.— Some are looking for the return of the Jews and the end of the world soon. I think otherwise. Many events are to take place first: and dreadful as these war has been, I believe far worse & much greater will take place before the end. Look at the 39th chapter of Ezekiel: also Rev: 19th from the 10th verse to the end of the chapter. Compare the six first verses of 63 ch: of Isaiah this. The passage refers to a victory which the Lamb will gain over his enemies; and not to his sufferings on the cross, as some have understood it. That phrase, treading the wine—

press alone, and none of the people with him, explains what I said before of GOD's doing the extraordinary work as it were by himself, and he is represented as all stained with blood, when he is executing vengeance upon his enemies. His enemies are great and numerous, not only in heathen nations, but in these lands where the Gospel light has shone, and have been called Christian. Infidelity has got to a very great height here: tho' thank GOD, there is much good doing among all denominations. Many eminent Clergymen are raised up in the church and some young ones preparing at the Colleges. The Bishop of London also has lately encouraged the Gospel Ministers (as they are called) and is setting a good example himself. I don't mean that it is in the way that is called Metho-m. but it is much better than it has been. Also the pious Ministers of various denominations are uniting their endeavours and preach for each other, to promote union, remove bigotry, and oppose Infidelity. Some Calvinist Ministers have preached lately in our pulpits, and some of our preachers have preached in theirs. I hope this will have a good effect. But there is still divisions and strife in some places among our M---; I have read to day a printed Letter from Lisburn in Ireld: signed by some local preachers, and most of the Leaders in that Circuit, addressed to the Methts: pointing out nearly the same things which have been mentioned for some years past in various parts of this kingdom, complaining of some of the preachers assuming so much power, and lording it over the people, growing slack in dicipline, being idle, and yet living more luxuriously than their predecessors, &c &c and the people desire to look into matters, and to have a share in the management of affairs. I know there is a great deal of truth in these things; and I saw that the glory was departed some years ago; and GOD has permitted them to scourge one another: yet, I think some are beginning to see and are altering their conduct: and there is good doing in some places. We are pretty quiet here for three years, ~~and I [illegible]~~ as our present Assistant has laboured to reconcile the contending parties. In a letter I wrote to Mr W--- a year before I left Ireland, I said, I believed in every age when there was a falling away in the church, it always began with the ministers. He said nothing against this; and, alas; it has turned out but too true with respect to his own Connexion. Much more blood has been shed in Ireland since I began this; every day brings a dreadful acct. Sin is the cause of all: and GOD has a controversy with the nations. We shall not be long on earth. Farewell! — may we all meet above!

I am &c J. C.—

All the people in this kingdom are preparing for their defence, as the French are about to invade us with a mighty Host. I have still hope that GOD will disappoint them, and disperse them: tho' we have offended him, and deserve his chastisments. There are many praying souls who are standing in the gap, and I trust they will be heard. The times we live in are perilous indeed, such as Paul describes in 2 Tim. 3. 1. &c. I see the Scripture fulfilling every day; yet thousands here and every where are denying it openly, and mocking it and all those who believe in it. Infidelity is openly professed by the highest and lowest orders amongst us. The little religion which is left is chiefly among the middling class of people. The French have overrun Italy, and the Pope has left Rome. His power is pulled down, according to GOD's declaration in the 17th chap.r of the Revelations. There may be one called a Pope for years to come; but no longer as before with secular power, blended with the Spiritual, as a temporal Prince. I look upon that as at an end. All the events which are coming to pass in these days confirm me in the truth of the Bible.—

I send enclosed a paper which contains a few of my thoughts. I had some time before I wrote them some arguments with one of those who hold the tenents of Winchester. He said that Christ went into hell to deliver those in prison &c This I denied, and here give my sense of the word hell. Again he said the lower parts of the earth in Ephes. 4. 9. meant hell This I also denied, and have quoted a few plaices in the old Testament where the phrases occurs, and give my opinion of it. These things I mention, that you may understand the reason of my printing it.—

Our poor bro.r D—— is in trying circumstances and I know not what he will do. &c. &c I scarcely know which of our family have had the greatest trials. Every one naturally feels his own most. But after all, I hope we shall have reason to bless GOD for them hereafter, and then to see the reason of them. God doth all things well: and we must acknowledge that in the midst of all these ~~things~~ trials, he has bestowed upon us many spiritual blessings above thousands: and what were we or our father's house? 'Tis mercy all immense and free &c:— Farewell!— J. C

My dear Sister

London June 6th 98

I am still spared, and on this side of Jordan, after having been severely afflicted during the last six months. My cough was of an extraordinary kind, and so violent as to give me little rest by day or night. It has gradually abated during the last month; but I am much worn and very weak. I go out and do a little sometimes.

I have within a few days heard from each of my Brothers. R— is still much afflicted both in body and mind: W— is in health, but knows not what to do, or where to go. He is like to suffer in his old age &c. But that kingdom is in a most dreadful situation &c the greater part of it is declared in a State of rebellion: and lately there has been a rising in Kildare, and other parts of Leinster. There have been several battles; but the rebels have been always defeated, and many hundreds killed. It is said they intended to have surprised Dublin and murdered all the protestants in the kingdom. The North is pretty quiet at present; but during the last year Munster and Leinster have been most disturbed and several murders and robberies committed. About a fortnight ago at Dunboyne 9 miles from Dublin they attacked and killed some Dragoons. They murdered David Creighton a revenue officer, whom I knew. Lord Edward Fitzgerald bro^r to the Duke of Leinster, ~~taken~~ about that time was taken for treason. Government have offered great rewards for apprehending many more: and some were seiz-ed here last week being young Lawyers, Irishmen, studying at the Temple. If the French can get to assist the rebels (as has been long expected) they will probably have the whole kingdom. They have been preparing to invade this kingdom a long while: and we are making great preparations against them. We hear that the French are going to quarrel with your States al-so: and indeed they seem desirous to disturb all nations. I have long looked upon them as a scourge in the hand of God to punish us and others who have rebelled against him. As one sinner may be a temporary scourge to other offenders; so one wicked nation may be a rod and chastisement to others; as the kings of Babylon and Assyria were to the disobedient Israelites; yet they themselves escaped not a just recompence for their own sins and transgressions. We should strive to see God in all these events which are coming to pass, both in his judgments & mercies. But too many at present leave him out of the question, and are looking at second causes, or the instruments and rods in his hand.— You have heard, I suppose, that the Pope has been forced to fly from Rome, and has lost much of his riches and pow-er: and the French have been the instrument to effect this and to pull down that refuge of lyes, and superstition, which had so long prevailed, and deceived the nations. Not that Popery is yet at an end; but more has been done in a few years towards

Gospel-dispensation are contrasted: mount Sinai being a type of the Law which was delivered there; and mount Zion of the Gospel, which was published there. A beautiful print of this is just published here by a man to be inserted in a Testament, which he has got printed, He formerly belonged to Mr Wesley: but is now of Mr Winchester's persuation. I believe he is a good kind of man, and friendly, tho I cannot agree with him in many things; however I am not fond of controversy, which frequently stirs up strife. The Title of this print is Mount Sinai and Mount Zion contrasted. On the left hand is mount Sinai all covered with blackness, clouds of Smoke mingled with fire, and lightening shooting thro' the clouds: at the bottom is Moses with the Tables in his hand, and the people full of terror, and some falling as it were with fear, at hearing the thunders &c. — On the right hand is mount Zion all in light, our Saviour sitting on it teaching the people, who are hearing him with great attention, and their countenances expressive of joy, and every thing that is pleasing. This man desired me to give him two verses of poetry to insert on the opposite page I wrote the following for him —

Midst Sinai's thunders, fire, and smoke,
Behold what terror and dismay!
But oh! what joy when Jesus spoke,
And introduc'd the Gospel-day!

Whilst dread attends the trumpet's noise,
How dark and gloomy is the scene!
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Here is another print, of St Paul pleading before Festus and Agrippa. In the Revelation he has another, of the woman persecuted by the dragon, and her child caught up into the clouds, and received by Angels. at his desire I wrote the two following verses for him —

Though Satan darts his venom'd gall,
Beyond his bounds he cannot go:
The woman's seed shall make him fall,
And trample on the haughty foe.
Her child caught up above the clouds,
'Midst bands of Angels swiftly flies:
The hosts attend, in circling crouds,
To hail him welcome to the skies.

I have often preached from the two last verses of the 12th of Hebrews. We are suffering here greatly in various ways. New taxes laying on every day, in consequence of this horrid war, and there is no likelihood of a conclusion to it. tho' most of the other nations have made a peace for themselves. The French are the scourge, in the

hand of God, for all Europe: and ~~to~~ inclined to quarrel with your States too. As long as we exist, we shall be liable to some ~~to some~~ calamitys or share afflictions of the country where we live: therefore to be expecting them is one way to be prepared for them. But we know on whose shoulders the government and superintendance of Nations as well as individuals hangs. The Lord is king, let the people be ever so mad: and he is at this time carrying on his great design, whether we see it or not. He is shaking terribly the nations; for they must be humbled and brought down, before his kingdom is established. Mr Fleming (who wrote above a hundred years ago) says — "The Lord often puts some visible difference betwixt the righteous and the wicked, in a time of common calamity. And such a marvellous concurrence of providences meet, as to tell the world, these have had an invisible hedge of preservation about them, and had some better care than their own.

"We may often see a very strange concurrence of things, how instruments act to bring about the Lord's end, and advance his church's interest, even while each doth most vigourously drive his own design; which shews there is surly a living Spirit in the wheels, that ordereth these motions. — We have seen most despicable and ordinary things made subservient for some great piece of the Lord's work; a very small thing made the first rise of strange revolutions. — A sword must pierce thro' the Church's heart, that the thoughts of many may be discovered. A time of persecution must help to cure the divisions among the godly, and bring them together in the furnace, which prosperity could not do: yea, the very undoing of the Church hath been God's blessed way, to keep her from being undone."

I believe the real godly will soon be a very small flock.

I am yours &c J. C.

My dear Sister

London April 1790

I am spared a little longer here, tho' in a very weak and afflicted State: and just write you a few lines while I have any strength. Bro^r^ R. has had great afflictions in his ~~a~~ person, and family. That part of the country is pretty quiet at present, being guarded by troops &c. But most other parts of the kingdom is in great confusion. In many parts they are robbing and murthering, at night and sometimes in the day. Most parts of the kingdom are proclaimed by the Government to be in a State of rebellion; and then the military take the whole management, and often exercise cruelty, and murder. I think matters will grow worse and worse, and that much blood will be shed.

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My dear Sister London April 1790

I am spared a little longer here, tho' in a very weak and afflicted state: and just write you a few lines while I have any strength. Bro'r K. has had great afflictions in his own person, and family. That part of the country is pretty quiet at present, being guarded by troops &c. But most other parts of the kingdom is in great confusion. In many parts they are robbing and murthering, at night and sometimes in the day. Most parts of the kingdom are proclaimed by the Government to be in a State of rebellion; and then the military take the whole management, and often exercise cruelty, and murder. I think matters will grow worse and worse, and that much blood will be shed.

Some Commentators greatly distort this passage by giving the father a power to judge for his virgin daughter; which is absurd, for each individual must judge for himself.— The Lord has amazingly strengthened me when preaching, for half a year past, my friends encourage me, and others are confounded. Farewell! Let us strive to meet in Spirit here, till we meet above.—

J. C.

Some time ago when I was lying in bed poorly, I was thinking of N--y, and that she had escaped before me, I composed the following few lines with many tears, and now I write them with tears.

Ah hast thou fled, my sister dear?
And left thy brethren here behind?
The sea is rough through which they steer,
And still they're toss'd by ev'ry wind.

Yes, thou hast safely pass'd the flood,
And gained the happy port of ease;
Thy face was oft with tears bedew'd,
But now it smiles with joy and peace.

Fly, fly, ye moments! haste away
Till all the Saints are gather'd home:
When they shall bask in endless day,
And thro' bright mansions freely roam!

My sister, ah! has ta'en her flight,
Has sudently escaped away!
To mingle with the saints in light,
And share with them yon dazzling ray.

Her conflict's past, her warfare's o'er,
She now has reached the long-saught goal:
On swiftest pinions mounts to soar
Far, far beyond the Ecliptic pole.

A star, in the celestial sphere,
Superior lustre she'll display;
Who closely walk'd with Jesus here,
And now enjoys the ~~blaze~~ of day.

Her sisters weep beside her urn,
Who saw when she resigned her breath,

They feel their loss, and deeply mourn
The friend belov'd and lov'd in death.

I too, with them, could sigh and weep,
Though not behold the afflicting scene:
For I am severed by the Deep,
(The Atlantic billows roll between)

But whilst I'm weathering out the gale,
Whilst winds around me fiercely blow:
No blasts my sister can assail,
She's safe in port, and landed now.

Thrice happy they, who persevere
Unshaken in a steady faith!
The Saviour, whom they follow'd here,
Supports them through the pangs of death.

Jan.y 24 1798

My dear Sister

I rec.d your Letter of the 24 of Oct.r after I had for some time given you up for dead. I had heard in Nov.r that the fever had again come to your City; and I deferred writing till I should hear further. I myself was near being called away in Decem.r and have been mostly confined now for two months; but thanks to our adorable and best Friend, we are all spared a little longer, and entered on a new year. O that we may live for the end we were created; and breathe our Souls to GOD, so long as we breathe below! You have had awful instances of mortality around you: and GOD hath shewn you that he can preserve, even in the midst of the fire, those that trust in him. Glory be to him! he is the same in every age, and he hath not lost his power to save. O that we could live and walk more by faith; and learn, in whatever condition or state we are therewith to be content! In the time of my illness I had not any rapturous joy but a calm peace and resignation to the divine will. I had no clouds or fears; but perhaps I may yet have both, as many better than I have had before they went hence. I find there is no better way than to come every moment to GOD thro' a Mediator, that is living in the habitual exercise of faith. Some are ever looking at their defects, and brooding over their sins, without looking on the other side to the Redeemer and great high-priest, who ever liveth and pleads the merits of his blood before the The Throne. Read the latter part of the 12th chapter to the Hebrews from the 18th verse, where the Law and the

That word frequently occurs to my mind of late — "The kingdoms
of this world are become the kingdoms of Christ." — Every thing
that is Antichrist must come down; or, if it will not come down,
God will pull it down. Now, bad as Rome has acted and wicked
as popery has been; yet we are not to confine Antichrist to this:
Antichrist is every thing that is opposed to Christ either in
individuals or in nations. Therefore I see that much is to
be done in Great Britain and Ireland, and great changes wrought
before the kingdom of Christ is established. Some are alarmed,
because they see that Infidelity is rather increasing; and
the conduct of many professing people has tended to increase
the infidelity of an ungodly world. This is very distressing
indeed; and causes the hands of many to hang down. But
this falling away was also foretold in the word of God: therefore
we ~~had~~ need not be surprised at it. Still God has had a church
on earth every age, and she has been preserved in a miraculous
manner during all the convulsions that have happened. Now,
this church consists of individuals scattered, perhaps, in divers
places and countries; and hid in corners; but the time shall come,
when God will have a Church all glorious, without spot or wrinkle; and
remember it will be on this earth. I have not room to enlarge on this
point; but you see in a few words what my general views are.
Therefore let us not be anxiously sollicitous about tomorrow; but
learn to devote ourselves and ours to God in the present day. God
can bring our children in by means that we know not. They are
not worse by nature than we have been; and however evil the days be
in which they live; we know there is nothing impossible with God.
He can keep the spark unquenched amidst the ocean and the bush
unburned amidst the flame. O for more faith! all things can be
done by God for him who believeth. I have for five months been look
-ing closely into the Greek of the new Testament; and find it need-
ful to alter many things in the common Translation. That Text
in Mark, 9. 23. I translate thus — "The point is, if thou canst
believe; all things can be done for him who believeth," this is con-
firmed by the notes of different persons. Mr Wesley saith — The
thing does not turn on my power, but on thy faith. I can do all
things: canst thou believe? — Another says — The question is
not about my power, but thy faith; for all things of this kind are
possible to be effected by me for those that believe in me. —
Wherever you meet the word Testament, read it Covenant, for
so it ought to be. There is a place in Heb: 9. 15, 16, 17. which is ve-
ry obscure in the common translation; and does not at all give
the sense of the Apostle. I translate it thus "And for this end
He is the Mediator of a new Covenant, that death being un-
dergone for the redemption of the transgressions against

the first covenant, they who are called might receive the promise of an eternal inheritance. For where there is a covenant, there is a necessity to produce the death of covenanting-victom. For a covenant is ratified over the dead; since it is not valid while the covenanting-victom is alive."— The Apostle alludes here to the custom of old used by parties who entered into covenant, or into an agreement of peace and friendship. When parties entered into a covenant of peace or friendship; they slew some beast and split it down from the head to the tail; then laying the pieces asunder, they entered at each end between these pieces and met each other in the ~~pieces~~ middle: and this was the confirming or ratifying of the covenant or agreement. There was therefore always death or a dead victom on the occasion. It is in allusion to this that the Apostle saith of Christ, that he offered himself as a victom for man's transgressions; and has opened a new and living way &c; the way of old to peace and friendship was thro' the dead (as above described) but Christ is living, and ever liveth to make intercession for the transgressors. See Gen: 15. 9.10.17.18. which will throw light upon this subject; where God entered into a covenant with Abraham,— The fire or burning lamp was a representation of God, passing between the pieces, to meet as it were Abraham, and to enter into an agreement of peace and friendship with him. This will also explain Psalm 85.10 Justice and mercy are reconciled thro' J. Christ the victom slain from the foundation of the world.—

There is another passage (1 Cor. 7. 36.37, 38.) which is greatly obscured by the common translation.— I translate it thus.— "But, if any one thinks that he acts unbecoming respecting his virgin-state, if he is past the flower of his age, & that it ought to be so; let him act according to his inclination; he doth not sin: let them marry. But he, who is steadfastly fixed in his mind, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and hath determined this in his heart to keep his virgin-state; doth well: So that even he who marrieth, doth well; but he who doth not marry, doth better."— It is evident from the 25th verse that the Apostle is answering a question proposed to him by the Corinthians: and he gives his private opinion that it was better for persons of either sex to remain single at that time, considering the then persecuted state of the church. Nevertheless, if any one had an inclination to marry, and thought he ought to do it, they might do so. St Paul saith let them marry. This plainly shews that what is here said equally respects persons of either sex in their single state. And again,— "to keep his his own virginity" (or virgin-state) and hath power over his own will."— that is, hath the gift of continence.

that word frequently occurs to my mind of late — "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of Christ." — Every thing that is Antichrist must come down; or, if it will not come down, God will pull it down. Now, bad as Rome has acted and wicked as popery has been; yet we are not to confine Antichrist to this. Antichrist is every thing that is opposed to Christ either in individuals or in nations. Therefore I see that much is to be done in Great Britain and Ireland, and great changes wrought before the kingdom of Christ is established. Some are alarmed, because they see that Infidelity is rather increasing; and the conduct of many professing people has tended to increase the infidelity of an ungodly world. This is very distressing indeed; and causes the hands of many to hang down. But this falling away was also foretold in the word of God: therefore we ~~had~~ need not be surprised at it. Still God has had a church on earth every age, and she has been preserved in a miraculous manner during all the convulsions that have happened. Now, this church consists of individuals scattered, perhaps, in divers places and countries; and hid in corners; but the time shall come, when God will have a Church all glorious, without spot or wrinkle; and remember it will be on this earth. I have not room to enlarge on this point; but you see in a few words what my general views are. Therefore let us not be anxiously sollicitous about tomorrow; but learn to devote ourselves and ours to God in the present day. God can bring our children in by means that we know not. They are not worse by nature than we have been; and however evil the days be in which they live; we know there is nothing impossible with God. He can put the spark unquenched amidst the ocean and the bush unburned amidst the flame. O for more faith! all things can be done by God for him who believeth. I have for five months been looking closely into the Greek of the new Testament; and find it needful to alter many things in the common Translation. That Text in Mark, 9.23. I translate thus — "The point is, if thou canst believe; all things can be done for him who believeth," this is confirmed by the notes of different persons. Mr Wesley saith — The thing does not turn on my power, but on thy faith. I can do all things: canst thou believe? — Another says — The question is not about my power, but thy faith; for all things of this kind are possible to be effected by me for those that believe in me. — Wherever you meet the word Testament, read it Covenant, for so it ought to be. There is a place in Heb: 9.15, 16, 17. which is very obscure in the common translation; and does not at all give the sense of the Apostle. I translate it thus "And for this end He is the Mediator of a new covenant, that death being undergone for the redemption of the transgressions against

the first covenant, they who are called might receive the promise of an eternal inheritance. For, where there is a covenant, there is a necessity to produce the death of covenanting-victom. For a covenant is ratified over the dead; since it is not valid while the covenanting-victom is alive." — The Apostle alludes here to the custom of old used by parties who entered into covenant, or into an agreements of peace and friendship. When parties entered into a covenant of peace or friendship, they slew some beast and split it down from the head to the tail; then laying the pieces asunder, they entered at each end between these pieces and met each other in the ~~pieces~~ middle: and this was the confirming or ratifying of the covenant or agreement. There was therefore always death or a dead victom on the occasion. It is in allusion to this that the Apostle saith of Christ, that he offered himself as a victom for man's transgressions; and has opened a new and living way &c; the way of old to peace and friendship was thro' the dead (as above described) but Christ is living, and ever liveth to make intercession for the transgressors. See Gen: 15. 9. 10. 17. 18. which will throw light upon this subject, where God entered into a covenant with Abraham, the fire or burning lamp was a representation of God, passing between the pieces, to meet as it were Abraham, and to enter into an agreement of peace and friendship with him. This will also explain Psalm 85. 10. Justice and mercy are reconciled thro' J. Christ the victom slain from the foundation of the world. —

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Thus this world, and the men thereof passeth away! — But there is nothing strange in all this. It has happened again and again in every age. — The whole world is convulsed, and out of course: but yet there is nothing strange in all this neither; for it is all foretold in Scripture. GOD is on his way to effect his great and mighty purposes. Every thing that exalteth itself against GOD must be brought down, either in Ch: or State. The kingdoms of this world must sometime or other become the kingdoms of Christ. He ruleth in the kingdom of men and giveth it to whomsoever he will. His providence is over all, and tho' we see but little, and can scarcely account for a thousand things that come to pass every day, yet we should strive to trace his hand in all things. Some can only look at the second causes, but we should always acknowledge the first Cause. He may use even wicked agents, tho' he does not influence them, in bringing about many things, in the course of his providence. We know little; but we may rest assured, that all things will be ~~changed~~ cleared up in the end. I take a general view of all the nations of the world; and I draw my conclusions from the Scripture. And nothing that comes to pass surprises me, because I see it foretold in the Scripture. It is true, men that look into the Bible see things often in a different points of ~~light~~ view: therefore I leave every man to form his own judgment; and at the same time, I have a right to think for myself. Every thing that is insolent, overbearing, or tyranical either in Church or State, is contrary to the mind of Christ: and this, in my judgment, must be brought down by some means or other. There is much evil in bringing about this; but in the present state of things, I don't see how it can be otherwise. The less of this there is in any Church or Nation, the better. The convulsions in the church, is very painful to every serious mind: but it will work in the end for good. All these things in Ch: and State I compare to the fermenting of liquors; which when they ferment, they work off the scum and dregs, and the pure liquor is left behind. All parties will learn something from the evils that happen; and therefore will grow wiser and more cautious. Oh! It is a great mercy to be able to look calmly at all events, and to look to the great Superintendant of the universe, remembring that not a sparrow can fall to the ground without his knowledge. And tho' we may see and hear of many evils in the church, let us remember who the Head of the Church is. Will He not take care of it, and send labourers into it from time to time? He sees all things at one glance of His eye: but we see only a small part in our own neighbourhood &c. Mr Baxter, in a Tract called his dieing thoughts, is very beautiful on this ~~subject~~ point. — It is your business and mine to look forward to a better world, and not puzzle ourselves with what we see and hear among professors of religion. Human nature is the same in every age, and in every clime; and when we study human nature well, we will not be surprised at any thing that comes to pass under the sun. But there is a GOD that can, and will make all things new. He has said, and will perform what he has said.

Farewell! J. C.

My dear Sister London July 26th 1797

I rec.d yours of the 1st of June. Nothing particular has happened to me or mine since I wrote to you. I then informed you of my wife's illness in April, and my own too. Thank God we are both better. Affairs in Ireland have been in a desperate way for more than a year past: I hear they are now somewhat better, and the people more quiet. There was much disturbance in the northern counties, and many respectable people about Belfast, Derry, and Armagh were taken up, some of whom are still confined in Dublin, and many of the common people in the north were hanged, or sent aboard of Ships. Many hundreds have since that time come and surrendered their arms, and have taken the oath of allegiance, and promised to be quiet in future. But I think the spirit which is gone forth both there and in various other places, will not be soon subdued. And I fear God will scourge these guilty and ungrateful lands even still more than he has done. Tho' there is a negociation for peace now going on; and even supposing it should take place, yet I am persuaded from my view of the Scriptures, that all we have seen is only the beginning of sorrows. Every tittle of the word of God will be fulfilled: and he must be very blind indeed that doth not see the Scriptures, respecting both promises and threatnings, fullfilling at this day. If the Infidal world ~~would~~ calmly consider it, they might be convinced of the divine authority of the Scriptures, by looking at every thing that comes to pass around them. Whatever convulsions, or changes come to pass in particular places, or in the earth at large, we know where the government lies, and who it is that ruleth in the kingdoms of men, and giveth them to whomsoever he will. — Much may be learned from what we read of God's dealings with nations as well as with individuals in ages past: so that nothing seems strange to me now that cometh to pass under the Sun. The great thing which God's children are to observe at this time, is to strive to hide themselves under the wings of Jehovah, for this little moment, untill the indignation (or calamity's of the present day) are overpast. They must strive, as far as they can, not to be dragged in to join in any convulsion in Church or State: for God has commonly made use of the wicked to scourge one another and he uses them in some sense to bring about his own purposes. He will and must have a kingdom upon earth; for he hath said it, and therefore I look upon every event that is now coming to pass, as all tending to that great end. And how comfortable is the prospect, when we take this view of it! The afflictions of the present life, or the commotions of this present day, however great they may be, will if we are faithful, work together in the end for our good, and will work out for us too a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. They are but for a moment, they are transitory, and will soon be over. Thrice blessed! bliss inspiring hope!!

And, how they might have borne more welcome news.
There's nothing here, but what as nothing weighs:
Loose then from earth the grasp of fond desire:
Weigh anchor, and some happier clime explore.

Warn'd by the languor of life's evening ray,
At length, I've hous'd me in an humble shed;
Where, future wandering banish'd from my thought,
And, waiting, patient, the sweet hour of rest;
I chase the moments with a serious song:
Song sooths our pains; and age has pains to sooth.

Blest be that hand divine, which gently laid,
My heart at rest beneath this humble shed.
The world's a stately bark, on dangerous seas,
With pleasure seen, but boarded at our peril;
Here, on a single plank, thrown safe ashore,
I hear the tumult of the distant throng,
As that of seas remote, or dying storms;
And meditate on scenes, more silent still;
Pursue my theme and fight the fear of death.
Here, like a shepherd, gazing from his hut,
Touching his reed, or leaning on his staff,
Eager ambition's fiery chace I see.
I see the circling hunt of noisy men
Burst law's enclosure, leap the mounds of right,
Pursuing and pursued, each other's prey;
As wolves, for rapine; as the fox for wiles.
'Till death, that mighty hunter, earths them all.

What, tho' we wade in wealth, or soar in fame,
Earth's highest station end in—"here he lies,"—
And "dust to dust"— concludes her noblest song."—

Infidelity is increasing rapidly in these kingdoms as well as on the continent of Europe: and I fear many professors will conform or swim down with the stream. They only who are firmly fixed on the rock will be able to stand: but tho' God may permit the enemy to go a great length, yet we know he is limited, and there will be always a seed and a remnant who in spite of all opposition, will steadily serve their God.

There has been much discord in this kingdom among the Un-
for six years past; which has done much harm to the cause of religion
in general, as well as ourselves in particular. We are pretty quiet
here for two years past; but there have been convulsions in many other places
and some of them are not yet quite subdued. All these things give us to see
and know more of human nature, and what it is capable of: and it should serve
to humble us to the dust, for alas! none hath any cause to boast, or to say he is
entirely free or purified. We must come every moment to the atoning blood;
and cry to God — Oh! cleanse me and keep me clean!" — Let us always
hang, as dependant beings, on Him who hung on Calvary: and amidst the many
different opinions which abound in the world let us be in full
for it is agreed on all hands that this is absolutely necessary, tho' they differ as to
manner and time of attaining it. They have but a poor conception of God, who
would limit him to any certain mode or time in his operations. He is not
accountable to any of his creatures, — and even Angels will ~~not~~ never fully
fathom all the ways of God; tho' they will certainly discover more and more of the
wonderful displays of his wisdom and love to all Eternity. —
I am glad you have got a good Class-leader; and it will be best for you to have as little
to do with public affairs and those that manage them as possible. There is something
in human nature which is fond of power; but few know how to use it right, and
when ignorent persons, or those raised from low life are put into some little of-
fice, they soon forget themselves, and become insolent. However, we must make al-
lowances for others, and not limit them just to our own mode, or views of things.
It is well that there is a variety among men and things, that they may serve to cor-
rect each other. I think there will be great variety, and different orders among
intelligent beings in the next world. I have heard from both my Bro^rs. — The times
are very precarious, as a revolution is expected there and here too: but that
kingdom is kept in great subjection by the Army &c. — It is most likely
changes will take place there, and in all nations of the earth, I think I see the
hand of God in all, and he is bringing about his own work; I mean to shake all
nations, till they be truly humbled, at at length become the kingdoms of
Christ. Farewell! —

J. C.

London June 2d. 97

My dear Sister

Nothing particular has happened to myself or family
since I wrote to you last: we are all now pretty well. Our friends in Ireland are
much as usual, full of trials and afflictions. We have many things to pass thro'
here: Oh! that we may be enabled to stand still in all events, and experience
the salvation of God. — Let your mind be easy about your son, and continue to
remember him at the Throne. Let us ~~act~~ act our parts, and leave the events to
God. Have we not good reason to trust him both for ourselves and for our
children too. — He has the hearts of all in his power. —
W. T. whom you knew, went on in his wretched way, till lately
riding home drunk. he fell off his horse, and had his brains dashed out.
The people now remarks the common oath he used to swear by, the death he
should die. Capt. E— has been gathering bags of gold for many years.
It is said his eldest son was hanged sometime ago for deserting to the French.
His eldest daughter went off with a low papist Ser, and died soon after.
His only son of 17 years old went out with his sisters on a jaunting car
& fell sick and died in an hour or two. —

But I know the foundation standeth sure let who will fall away. I have seen and learned much of human nature; and what man (yea, regenerate man) is capable of, But I have bought my experience dear. However, it has all been working for good, But I cannot impart my experience to my Children, every one must buy for themselves. I believe there are many amongst us, both Preachers and people, some of the best in the kingdom: yet I am sorry to say there are others the reverse. When religious persons fall away, they very often fall foully: and if they choose to deceive, they can do it more easily than others. They learn many ways of evasion, and telling lies, so that they can deceive the simple. But the world is in danger of turning Infidels altogether: and the conduct of professors, and especially of Teachers contributes to it.— I am sorry to fill up my paper with these sad reflections; but as I am in a dangerous state of health, perhaps this may be the last I shall be able to write, therefore I would leave these as my dying sentiments.—

Ireland is in an alarming way, in many respects. Several rebellious people in the North, are murdering their neighbours. I read in the papers to day a dreadful affair in the County Donegall. A Dr Hamilton, a Fellow of the College, who had a living down there, and was an active Magistrate. He had some neighbours with him at supper. A number of these wretches surrounded the house and got in. The master hid in the cellar, There was another gentleman, rather wealthy, whose wife to save him threw herself over him and begged them to spare him. They fired three shots thro' her body. Then they threatned to pull the house down: then the Servants to save themselves dragged their master out of the cellar. He clung to the door, but the wretches first burned his hands; and then brought him out and murdered him. I also heard lately they tore down one of the finest houses in the North, belonging to some Nobleman. There will be more blood shed in that kingdom, even by one another: This kingdom is not much better; only they do not murder as they do in Ireland. I am not so much alarmed as many others here; tho' the times are such as to make the stoutest stout-hearted tremble. I see the hand of God in all; and I see it is all just; but I retain a hope that he will not give us up to utter ruin. Besides I have been looking for death at any rate, and these hurricanes make little difference to me, whilst standing on the brink of Jordan. O! that I may be wholly prepared for my call! I am a little better today.— Farewell: Let us remember each other whilst we are in this vale of tears. I think all the trials of our family are mercies, Let us be very thankful for them, and the little we know of God.— I trust we shall all meet one day and see him as he is. Amen!— Yours Jo Crook

My dear Sister May 8th 1797

After waiting long in expectation of hearing from you, I sit down to write a few lines, which perhaps may be the last you will receive from me. I have lately gone thro' a great deal of affliction, and am brought very low. On the 9th of April, being Sunday, my wife was seized with a most violent pleurisy. I was obliged to go directly to the Chapel and had to go thro' the whole service and preach; and could not go to the Physician till the afternoon. He had little hopes of her for a week. I had much exercise of body and mind; had only just been getting a little better after a six weeks illness. On good friday I had to go ~~to~~ to the west end of the Town to preach &c. and was hard set to get thro'. In my prayer before the Sermon partly from a sense of my situation, and partly from considering the awful event which we were then commemorating, namely the death and sufferings of our Lord, I was quite overwhelmed, and could hardly repeat the Lord's prayer. I believe the people felt something uncommon at the time, tho' none of them at that time knew my situation. After stopping some time in order to recover, I went on pretty well; and some afterwards told me that the people thought I had more than ordinary liberty. I got home with some difficulty, but was obliged to take to bed, and lay next day; and did not go out at all on Easter Sunday. My wife was still in a dangerous way: ~~by~~ has got a little better. This attack coming so soon after the former, has so emaciated me that it is wonderful I exist. But I struggled to the west end of the Town, three miles from me, yesterday, and went thro' the whole service and preached. I had more than common freedom for I was as it were delivering my last message to them. —

The affairs of Ireland have been growing worse and worse for a year past. Many persons have been taken up in the North, on suspicion of treason, or a design to overturn the Government, The whole Province of Ulster is put under the power of the Miletory: who act as they please. &c &c — — Trade and business is at a low ebb there; and as they are in such a state of disturbance, they must of consequence neglect their business, which will bring on more distress. Our Friends are suffering in various ways in consequence of these public calamities, as also their own afflictions &c. but the comfort is, it will be but as a moment, in comparison of Eternity.

I often indulge myself with Young's Night Thoughts, and sometimes endeavour to apply the following Lines to myself.

" 'Tis greatly wise to talk with our past hours;
And ask them, what report they bore to heaven;

as the only safe guide from inward darkness to inward light, and from outward shadows into the substantial ever enduring truth: which truth is nothing else, but the everlasting union of the soul with God, as its only good, through the spirit & nature of Christ truly formed and fully revealed in it. — All that is wanting to be removed from every Church, or Christian society, in order to its being a part of the heavenly Jerusalem, is that which may be called its own, human will, & carnal wisdom, which is all to be given up, by turning the eyes and hearts of all its members to an inward adoration, and total dependance upon the supernatural, invisible, omnipresent God of all spirits, to the inward teachings of Christ as the power, the wisdom, and the light of God, working within them every good and blessing which they can ever receive, either on earth, or in heaven. I have heard lately from our Brothers in Ireland. That Kingdom has been greatly agitated, and alarmed by the French appearing off their coast to the south. It is supposed they intended to land, but the wind was exceeding strong against them. I I look upon this as from God. One or more of their ships 'tis said was sunk in the storm. Thus does God still interfere in behalf of a guilty land. Yet, tho the French seem at present to be disappointed; the kingdom is in a confused state. The presbyterians in the North uniting with the papists. it is supposed these encouraged the French to come over. All the farmers and principle protestants are forming into a body to defend themselves. These are indeed perilous times; if we take a serious view of the world at large, or of our own country in particular. That word is worth attention. — Amos, 3. 6. and also that in Micah 6. 9. I hope the praying remnant will continue to wrestle and stand in the gap: but Bro.r R— + says there is little talk of praying there now, but all of fighting. It seems however that God is about to sweep off a great part of the Inhabitants of the earth; that the remainder may learn righteousness, and fear him, who disposeth all things according to the counsel of his own will. We are spared amidst the calamities of others: Oh! that we may live to the glory of God, more than we have done the time that is past. So that he may hide us in the dark and cloudy day. — Farewell, —

J. C.

March 8th 1797

My dear Sister

I have been much confined and very ill for a month past, having caught cold, and my cough is inveterate, I have been obliged to struggle out to do service this day at our great Chapel, being a General Fast appointed by the Government, I spoke from Micah 5. 5. former clause of the verse. There have been great

alarms of late of an invation by the French; and they are still expected. &c — — — We may well say "The Lord hath done great things for us". — He has gently shook his rod over us, whilst he has dreadfully shaken the Nations around. How far he may yet go, with respect to us, none can see, but we know that all Enemies men and devils, are under his controul; and can go no farther than he permits. I shewed, in speaking this day, that he permitted the king of Assyria to go a certain length, he took many of the cities of Judah, and he came in a boasting manner even to the walls of Jerusalem: but God declared by his prophet Isaiah 37 - that he should not prevail against it; and the destroying Angel slew all his army that night, even an hundred and four score and five thousand. He permitted the Philistines and others frequently to chasten his rebellious children, in the times of the Judges; and even permitted the ark once to be taken for a time; but afterwards he punished their enemies: or as we say, burned the rod after he had used it. The great design of God, in the commotions of our day, is to make way for the manifesting the kingdom of his own Son, and setting his King upon his holy hill of Zion. They who are best enlightened, and most conversant in the inner temple, have other kind of thoughts concerning the issue of this war than the unbelieving part of the world: yea, than the common sort of professors have. They see King Jesus about to come to take the government into his own hands, and to shine forth in his glory, to the confusion of his enemies, and the consolation of those who have waited for his day. The kingdoms of the earth must become the kingdom of Christ. Now before this takes place, there must be great changes and revolutions in all Nations, as well as in individuals. Antichrist must be pulled down, before Christ's kingdom is set up. Now we need not confine Antichrist to the Pope or to Rome. Every thing both in nations and individuals, which is opposed to or against Christ, is Antichrist. And is there not much of this in protestant countries; and in every human heart? Is there not an enmity there against God? Christ's kingdom is a peaceable one; he must bring the passions into subjection, must humble the pride of man: and when all men are thus brought into subjection to God, they will be at peace with one another. There is as much convulsions among the professing world in a sense, as there is among the Nations. God has a controversy with them also, because they have not improved their day of grace. Judgment is begun at the house of God (Preachers and people) and they are scourging one another. In a letter to Mr. P— before I left Ireland, I observed to him, that according to Baxter's Ch: History, every falling away in the Church in every age, began with the Ministers. He did not contradict this. But if I saw things then which were not pleasing, what must I have seen since in the course of 14 years. —— What a mercy that I knew something of Christ experimentally, before. &c —

"In these last ages of christianity, many reformations have taken place: but alass! Truth must say that they have been in all their variety, little better than so many lesser Babals come out of Babylon the great. — The wisdom of this world, with its worldly spirit, was the only thing that had overcome the Church, and had carried it into captivity. For in captivity it certainly is as soon as it is turned into a kingdom of this world. Not a false doctrine not a bad discipline or corrupt practice ever prevailed in the Church, but had its birth from worldly wisdom. This wisdom was the great evil root, at which the reforming axe should have been laid, and must be laid, before the Church can be again the virgin spouse of christ, which it was in the beginning". —

The following was written by my worthy friend Mr Blair a few years before his death. — "A scriptural contempt of worldly glory commands respect even from them who are prejudiced against the Gospel, and gave the Reformers of the church in every age much influence: and always in proportion as the ambition of the clergy rendered them intolerable. But when these or their successors began to seek themselves or their own honour, they dwingled again into common men; and having lost their influence, by losing first their simplicity and purity; the glory departed from them: and God called and raised up some others more worthy. — And shall we not fear where so many mighty have unavoidably fallen? Did not the honours and riches heaped upon Christians by Constantine, tend more to sap the foundation of vital piety, than the persecutions of his predecessors? And shall we with eagerness run into the same snare?"

Another preacher speaks nearly to the same purport in a pamphlet which ~~which~~ he published about a year ago: His words are — What makes the ministers of the Church of Rome, and those of national Churches so lazy, and at the same time such a reproach to religion in their conduct? And what would hinder us from being as they are in our life and conversation were we fixed in their places and enjoyed their livings? Perhaps the ministers of the Gospel were as pious and as laborious as we are, when Constantine turned Christian: but when he richly endowed the ~~ministers~~ magnificient churches which he built, and raised the clergy to dignity and honour, they were corrupted, and became a curse in the earth. If we were endowed ~~with~~ riches, and raised to honourable lucrative places, which of us would be able to stand against the influence of corruption. This man published other things, and has greatly exposed the nakedness of the land, for which he was expelled. Many things which he says, I know to be true. Yet I think he is too conceited of himself, and tho' he may be used as a scourge to some at this time. Yet he is in danger of falling himself. —

Now, tho' there is much evil in all this, yet I think God will deduce good from it in the end. It will make some more cautious how they act, and the people getting more light, will watch over them. Even the Infidelity that prevails in the world at this day will, I think, be a means of curing the Church of some of its diseases. Hypocrites will be detected: and then one part of mankind will be open Infidels; and the other will be truly sincere. Infidelity is the instrument in France of pulling down superstition and and popish influence, and has done more in this respect in a few years, than the mild methods of instruction would have done in several centuries. And God knows how to destroy Infidelity in his own time, by establishing the kingdom of Christ. The Truth will be discussed more and more: free debate will take place: for Deists profess to let every man to think for himself; and we may rest assured that God will support his own cause, or that Truth will prevail. —

Extract from a letter of Mr. Wm. Law.

"Concerning joining any Church Communion I will tell you how I would act myself. — As to any defects in the outward form & performance of baptism and the Lord's supper in the Church I am under little or no concern about them. Because all that is inwardly meant, or intended by them, as the life spirit, and benefit of them, is subject to no human power, is wholly transacted between God and myself, and cannot be taken from me by any alteration made by man, in the outward celebration of them. — Therefore the outward celebration of these Sacraments is reverenced by me, wherever they are observed, as standing in the same place and significent of the same inward blessing as in their first institution. — I join therefore in the public assemblies not because of the purity, or perfection of that which is done: but because of that which is meant and intended by them: they mean the the holy public worship of God; they mean the edification of christians: they are of great use to many people. they keep the world from a total forgetfulness of God: they help the ignorent to such a knowledge of God, and the Scriptures as they would not have without them. — And therefore fallen as these Church Assemblies are, from their first Spiritual State, I reverence them as the venerable remains of all that, which once was, and will, I hope, be again, the glory of church assemblies; namely — the ministration of the spirit, and not of the letter.

In the midst of noise and church strife, there are some who having heard the still, and secret voice of the true Shepherd are turned inwards and are attentive to the inward truth, spirit, and life of true religion, searching after the spiritual instruction, which leads them to seek Christ, and his redeeming spirit,

from Isai: 45. 18. and yesterday was a twelve month in the same place from 2 Cor. 6, last clause of the 10th verse. I believe it was about the very hour when Sister A— died, or rather went to possess all things in God forever: I am amazed at the mercy of God extended to me the most unworthy of mortals. Sometimes I think I am spared to stand a little in the way of those who are striving to make innovations in our old plan; and who are wise in their own conceits. I do not interfere with their Governt or meddle with their management of affairs, only I keep at a distance and do not join with them; and even by this means, I in some wise confound them.

Let us all strive to exercise faith and holiness: our time is short, and I hope we shall all meet far from a world of grief and Sin.— Give my love to all the rest of our friends. To God I commit you all

Farewell.— J. C.

My dear Sister London Novr. 26. 1796

I have enjoyed good health since I was at the sea in August untill this last week, and began to feel the effects of the damp weather; having caught a cold and sore throat, therefore I take this opportunity of writing a few lines, lest I should grow worse.—

Amidst many exercises of mind and body, I have experienced many mercies, for which I desire to be more thankful. I preach occasionally, and it seems as if the Lord would greatly support me, and render me somewhat useful to the people, to confound my Enemies. I have often wondered why God raised me up so often, as it were from the margin of the grave: but for three years past, I think I see more and more of the hand of God in this, and that I am, as it were a kind of contrast to certain Individuals who would lord it over the people, at the same time that they live well and abound in riches. Some of them have got rich wives, and many have aimed at this for some years, the intention at first was good, namely, that they might not bring a burden upon the connection. But they are in danger of becoming too fond of money, and trusting God less than the ~~[illegible]~~ first Methodists did. But ~~[illegible]~~ there is a more deadly evil come in among them: they are tearing each other, and dividing the people, many of whom are wavering, and exposing their Teachers to the contempt of the world. Great as this evil is, yet I think it was the only way to cure them or at least to restrain their pride and abuse of power. It is true, the innocent often suffer with the guilty: and in a large body it is not easy to find out where the cause of the disease is, in order to apply a remedy or effect a cure. I have some years ago applied to the Meth: preachers, in some sense, what Samuel said to Saul. 1 Sam: 15.17. and also what St. Paul says, respecting the Gentiles being graffted into the olive tree, &c.— Rom: 11.20-24.25.— The Lord is raising up many pious Ministers in the established Church and is reviving his work in it, whilst others are quarreling with one another, and scattering the flocks that were gathered. I must remark however, that there is great difference in places, and in the people, as well as the preachers.

Many I trust, are still sincere, and it is to be hoped that these convulsions among us will work for good, and will at length settle in a calm.
There is more quiet in London for a year past than in most places. There is good doing, and I hope it will increase. When I look back, and read the affairs of the Church in the last Century, as well as in former ages, I do not wonder at any thing that now happens. I have a book of Mr. Baxter, entitled "a Cure for Church Divisions", yet I can learn little from it, except that there were Divisions and troubles in his time, among the Churches. Human nature is the same in every age. Oh! When will that prophecy be fulfilled (Isai. 11.9) when there shall be no hurting in the holy mountain? — It seems as if judgment was begun at the house of God: but the wicked will suffer still more bye and bye — Infidelity is increasing here as well as with you; and the lives of professors, and their disputes with each other tend to increase it. Paynes books have done much harm among the lower class of people in Britain and in Ireland. There have many answers to that book which he calls the Age of Reason. The one I like best is written by the Bishop of Landaff. whoever would answer a Deist must be able to meet him on his own ground of reason and philosophy, and be a strong and close reasoner. All arguments drawn from the Bible will have no weight with those who totally reject the Bible. Experimental religion is the best preservative, when we are attacked by Infidelity; for, tho' we cannot convince them, yet we have such an evidence within our-selves for the truth of what we believe, as they do not comprehend, nor can their arguments deprive us of it. It is only they who are possessed of this, who will be able to withstand the torrent of Infidelity which is likely to spread in the rising generation. But yet I can look thro' the cloud that I see ready to overspread the christian world, and think I see a bright day appearing. The light of the Gospel will never go out nay, it will shine more and more to the perfect day.

I lately met in a book written some years ago the following passage
"A few arrows have been obliquely thrown, by travellers of late years, on the christian religion. The masque is the ridicule of popery, but the masque is transparent. All religion is indirectly stigmatized as weak superstition, Scriptural phrases are used with wanton profaneness in some of our most popular travels, and those levities and vices gently palliated, which are forbidden by the sacred laws, and by the British laws. — In another place the same writer says: — Liberty, independence, and a consciousness of having acted uprightly, will render a state of indigence sweet; and the want of them must embitter the envied blessings of rank and opulence. — Without a good conscience what a phantom is all human bliss? After all the triumphs of worldly wisdom, and the contempt in which simplicity is held, I am convinced, that it is far better to be deceived than the deceiver."
Perhaps I may have given you formerly the following extract from Mr Law; but I am fond of it and again repeat it. —

I am glad I did not see him, lest some words might escape me which would tend to weaken his hands. He must therefore buy experience as I have done; but as he has something of his own to depend on, he may do better. I thank God, he doth wonderful things for me and I am better in temporal circumstances as well as in health than I was ten years ago. You will join with me in praising him, and in praying that I may be faithful and useful unto Death. I am yours — J. C.

London Oc.t 24: 1796

My Dear Sister

This day I rec.d your letter dated 18th of Sep.r I had long been uneasy as I had not heard from you since Feb. In the first Letter I wrote after hearing of sister A—s death (according to your desire) I wrote a few lines to put on her grave stone; whichever you chose—

Whose adorning was not outward, but the hidden man of the heart, even the ornament of a meek and quiet Spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. 1 Pet; 3. 3. 4.

or this if you chose. I think that taken from Scripture is best.

A Virgin wise, made ready for her Lord,
Espous'd to Christ, she kept her plighted word;
Her robes were washed, and all of spotless white:
Made pure within she shines in lustre bright.

Your son is certainly in great danger from bad company; but I do not see what you can do, except to pray to Him who is able to turn the heart and give him to feel what man is by nature. It is well he inclines to work, whilst he keeps close to that it will keep him from much evil. I have seen that being very busy in temporals is even good for the mind, to keep it employed; for it will rove to something or other, and is more inclined to the evil than the good, Infidelity is increasing very much here as well as with you, and I am sorry to say, among the Children of religious parents. But several young people here have within this year set out in the ways of God, and many of them I believe are truly converted. Among these I hope is my eldest daughter, She had for a year past, of her own accord, met in a class; but at the time of last Conf. a clergyman (Mr Averal) who sometimes called at my house, and he is zealous he was of great use to her, and she looks upon him as her spiritual father. Shortly after I came home from the sea, she was enabled to believe, and I hope is going on steadily. She is solid by nature, and I trust she will not grow weary. — Thank God we just get barely what keeps us from want, and I feel no anxious care about tomorrow. What they will do after my death, I know not. I do not encourage them to go to America at present wickedness I see abounds there as well as here, And indeed Infidelity is likely to increase every where in the world, so that the word has lately often occurred to my mind — "When Christ

comes again, will he find faith on the earth? It is only they who
are deeply experienced in the Truth who will be able to stand in
the rising age; yet God will have a remnant always to serve
him, untill he comes to establish his universal kingdom.
Several missionaries have been sent out to the Islands in the
south seas to convert the heathen there. Tho' I wish them success,
and hope some good may be done: yet I have my private thoughts
that not much of this work will be done untill that time spoken of,
called the fullness of time, when all Israel also shall be saved.
A young man here among the Calvinists has lately preached to the
Jews, at one of the Lady Huntingdon's Chapels. He is zealous, and
many of them have come to hear him. I had a pleasing account last
week of one of them being really converted to God. He is a single
man, a taylor by trade, rather poor. He was turned out of the Sy=
nagogue, and has taken lodgings at a pious family, who gave the
account to one of our people who told me. His manner of speech is
quite simple, and agreeable to christian experience. He has his
bible reading as he works, and says he has Jesus with him all the
day long. He says when he was reasoning at first about these things
he thought in his mind - "If I turn, I shall be ruined in my busi-
ness, for I shall get no work from my old friends," then he heard a
voice aloud behind him, saying — come out from among them,
and touch not the unclean thing. He looked to see who it was that
spoke, but continued to reason still, 'till he heard the same words
a second time: then he said - this must be God: therefore I will
believe, and immediately he felt what he now calls Jesus in his
heart, and laying his hand on his breast, he says - I have him
here all the day long, and I hope I shall never let him go". —
Tho' some individuals may be brought to God thus: yet I have my
private thoughts that God will in some extraordinary way convert
them as well as the heathen world, when the time is fully come.
His own right hand will get him the victory. — We are distressed
and ruined by this war, many have lately put an end to their own
lives here, because of their failures; but this is a miserable way
to get rid of troubles. — I got great benefit at the sea in Aug.t and
am still well, only one knee and ancle is weak. Being away at the conf.
I avoided the bustle at that time, and many things which are disagree-
able to me. The D—s are striving to hang together, tho' it is very loosely
for I think it is not by affection or love, but they are afraid to part,
as some of them are jealous of each other. There are more disputes
in several places, and divisions in the Societies like to take place,
particularly at Bristol, Chester, Liverpool, & Leeds. In London we are
pretty quiet for this last year, yet there are things creeping in gra-
dually, which I do not approve. I endeavour to keep as retired as I
can, and the Lord enables me to speak occasionally for him and
I believe it is not in vain. Yesterday I spoke in our great Chapel

As my memory fails, and so many things go thro my mind every day it is very probable that I may repeat things or observations which I mentioned before. The following is an extract from "Fleming's fulfilling of the Scriptures." — "The peculiar advantage of a sanctified trial is not so well seen in the present time as afterwards, when a long and rough storm hath recompenced the saints at their landing with a rich lading of experience. — They who hold fast their integrity, find how unspeakably sweet this is upon an after reckoning: and in the evening of life they reap a comfortable harvest of that which they have sown with much suffering. It doth not repent them then that they made integrity their choice. They have sometimes found a hundred fold even in this life: and they can say, integrity was never their ruin. A deliverance was brought about in a way they could not have expected: yea the Lord's shutting other doors upon them, was only that he might open one himself, like Hagar's well springing in the wilderness. Real humility and walking low in their own eyes and before God, did never lose to them respect and credit from men: but self-abasement doth observably go before lifting up, and true honour followeth such who least hunt after vain applause from the world. Going about duty with most confidence in themselves, usually gives men the most clear discovery of their weakness: and when they have least looked for any cross, they have been sure to meet with it. Secure sporting with a temptation may soon turn to sad account: it is very hard to dance about the fire and not be burnt. The bush burning and not consumed is an emblem of the church kept alive, yet still in the flames. Particular Churches, like the Sun, have usual periods, their height, flourishing, and gradual decay, making way to the departure of light: yet this never made void the promise of God to the Church universal. Continuance and preservation is peculiar to her alone: and can be said of no other interest or party beneath the sun: for there was no kingdom or empire so firmly rooted, no society so well governed by laws; but time did at last prevail over it. The Church hath outlived all the great revolutions that so often have changed the very face of the world." —

There has been a dispute in the Society at Cork: some desiring to have the Sacr.t being secretly encouraged by the Assistant. At length the people called a District meeting, and tried him, according to rules laid down in the last minutes: He was condemned and desired to remove to Waterford, but he stays with a party whom he has got to join him: The rest called in an Assistant from Waterford. Thus divisions are like to take place more and more. A preacher at Leeds in Yorkshire also got a party: took an upper room &c: at a Lovefeast lately the floor fell and upwards of twenty were killed, mostly old women. This is an awful affair, and much talked of. —

Farewell! — James J. C.

My dear Sister London Augt 1795

I begin to be uneasy, as I have had no account from you since I got that letter which was dated in January. I have just arrived at home after being absent nearly three weeks a fortnight of which I spent at the Sea at Dover. It has done me good. I went away just as the Conf: was begining here, for I did not choose to attend it, and I was employed the whole time I was away, and found satisfaction in my own mind and was useful; for there were no preachers left on the Circuit, as they had gone to Conference. I preached three times one one Sunday, and twice on another; which I have not done for many years. Such is the merciful dealings of a long - suffering God towards me!

There was great fears among both preachers and people that there would have been a dreadful Conferance; but they say they have not had so good a one for some years. I hope this is partly true, but I can say but little as I was not present. There has been a very great shaking among the P - - for a few years past, arising from different causes. Some of them have written against the others, and the people also have written some things, which have got out into the world, and contributed to harden the gainsayers. One preacher has been expelled at this Conference for pamphlets which he published last year, in which he proposed some alterations in the plan, to give the people a greater share in the management of matters, and an investigation into the collections and the distribution of them. This alarmed the fears of some, and excited jealousy in the people, so that I suppose their collections were much worse: but tho' these things were disagreeable, yet there was truth in many things which this man said, and I think it will have this good effect, to make them more careful and circumspect and serve to humble them, for they were grown almost intolerable with a notion of their own consequence, and looked down on all other parties with contempt. The Lord is raising up pious Clergymen in the Churches in many parts, and there are some pious young men now in the Colleges both in England and in Dublin. A few weeks ago, I heard a Mr Walker from the College of Dublin preach here at a Mr. Hill's chapel. He is a Calvinist in principle, but very humble and pious, and I liked his manner, and the most part of what he said. There came also over to our Conference here a Mr Averal from Ireland a very zealous loving man, who preaches among the Methodists about the King's and Queen's County: He is gone back again, and means to travel any where in Ireland to preach and administer the Sacrament among the Meth--. I did not see him, as I was from home; but he and a few other Irish preachers called at my house. He does not know many things which I know, and perhaps it is best he does not; if he did, I think he would not have come to England.

Mr. Law, in one of his Tracts, says — "There have been many reformations in these latter times; but, alass! — we must confess, they have been little better than so many lesser Babels come out of Babylon the great." — It is very remarkable, that where the Gospel flourished in the seven Churches in Asia, that country has for many ages been overwhelmed with Mahomitan darkness. We might make the same observation with respect to many places nearer home. There has been a revival in many places among the Methodists, and then a falling away; and then after some years, perhaps, a revival again. I believe GOD will act thus in parts of the earth, at different times: and though there has been, and may be a falling away; yet still he has had a Church upon earth; but then it has been only as a seed, untill the time shall come, when he will take the victory to himself and bow the whole world to his sway. There is a Society formed here of many denominations of pious Ministers and people, to send missionaries to the heathen. The design is good, and I hope they may be instrumental in bringing some to the knowledge of a Saviour: and supposing only one Soul should be saved, it is of infinite value. But, respecting these things, I have my private opinion; which I have not learned from any man. Tho' I wish success to every thing that may promote the kingdom of Christ, and to those who engage in it; yet, as I hinted before, I believe GOD will convert the whole world in a way that man could not have thought of: it will be miraculous and sudden: and he will, as I said, let it be seen that it is his own work. All acknowledge that the present wars and commotions in Europe are different from all former ones; and they say the end of the world is at hand. I think the present troubles are the beginning of sorrows; — but the end is not yet. Many prophecies are to be fulfilled: and tho' GOD can do a great work in a short time; yet very ~~dis-play of his omnipotence~~ little will be gradually fulfilled: and then he will make a manifest display of his omnipotence. It is in this sense I understand that word in Isaiah before quoted — of the people there was none with me. Hitherto he has used Instruments, or worked by second causes: but then the Lamb alone shall overcome; or he will take to himself the victory, and the whole glory shall be ascribed to him both by Angels and men. I have been the more particular in these few things, because they are my own thoughts, which I have not learned from man; yet I do not desire you or any other implicitly to believe them: but you may leave them with your friends as my opinion; and if I should change it before I die, I will let you know it. — Were I to give you a sketch of the history of Methodism in England, I know not where I should end. A new war or strife has broke out, occasioned partly by a pamphlet written by a traveling preacher in the North. He proposed a new constitution among Meth^ts^, to give the people more share in the management of affairs, and proposing many regulations in several things I entirely approve of many of these regulations; but many of the preachers are up in arms against him, and have written against him. Many of the people and some of the preachers are for him, He has discovered some things, which the preachers did not choose the people shou- know

I know there is much truth in what he says; and tho' I do not approve of every thing he has proposed; yet I like his honesty. He is to be tried at the Conference, and probably be cast out. — But he is very bold, and thinks he will have many friends to support him. There will be hott work at this conference; and therefore I intend going to the Sea at that time, and not be present at it as I could do no good, neither would it be a time profitable to my soul. Many of the preachers here had got such an Idea of their own greatness and power after Mr. W—s death, that they began to despise all men and to trample their own people under their feet. Now, God is punishing them, and suffering them to scourge one another. My friend B— foresaw many things which are now coming to pass. In one of his letters he says — "Some men among us seem to love to be in the fire; and I am of opinion the people will give them enough of it. We are apt to flatter ourselves that all our proceedings are right, but I fear God will chasten us by the people whom we have slighted. — Who can acquit us of the charge of loving money? I am sure there is more din about it than ever before: and as the people begin to take the alarm, they will magnify every appearance of it into an enormous reality. That there is an appearance of desiring to reign as Lords without the people is also true, and I judge will be more and more resented. — I dined lately with a Fellow of the College, at a friend's house, who seems to be a truly pious man: It is not unlikely that God will bring back by degrees the regular Clergy; especially if we fulfill not his own designs. — But we hope he will purge the Body and make us more holy." — These things foretold by my friend I have lived to see come to pass. We are becoming every day more infamous in the eyes even of other serious people in the land, by our contentions with each other; and the bad conduct of a few brings reproach upon all. Whilst the pious part of the Nation are grieved the Infidels are the more hardened, by observing and hearing of these things among us. God is however raising up many pious Ministers in the Church and in the Colleges; and he will let Methodists see that he can send by other people as well as them: and he would have none to boast, or to despise his neighbour. — According as a people or an individual, get power, or rise from a low State, they are apt to grow insolent and overbearing. If I understand right the Methodists in America are leaning a little this way too. Mr. A—y was at first low and humble, but is raised to great power. But whether he exercises that power arbitrarily or no I can't say. We see that the same spirit breathes in every clime. Yet still I would not have you puzzle yourself much about these things. You know the foundation is sure. I think the Methodist doctrines are the best. But I see how needful it is at this day, not only to be grounded in doctrines; but to be experimentally with the Truth as it is in Jesus. I have sometimes reflected on the severe trials of Christians in those times alluded to Rev: 13. 13. 14. 15. Men may be deceived by the arguments of Deists as well as by the tricks and cunning of the Papists: therefore they only who are intimately acquainted with God, and united to him, will be able to stand in the perilous times that are approaching. —

Mr. Law, in one of his Tracts, says — "There have been many reformations in these latter times; but, alass! — we must confess, they have been little better than so many lesser Babels come out of Babylon the great." — It is very remarkable, that where the Gospel flourished in the seven Churches in Asia, that country has for many ages been overwhelmed with Mahomitan darkness. We might make the same observation with respect to many places nearer home. There has been a revival in many places among the Methodists, and then a falling away; and then after some years, perhaps, a revival again. I believe God will act thus in parts of the earth, at different times: and though there has been, and may be a falling away; yet still he has had a Church upon earth; but then it has been only as a seed, untill the time shall come, when he will take the victory to himself and bow the whole world to his sway. There is a Society formed here of many denominations of pious Ministers and people, to send missionaries to the heathen. The design is good, and I hope they may be instrumental in bringing some to the knowledge of a Saviour: and supposing only one Soul should be saved, it is of infinite value. But, respecting these things, I have my private opinion; which I have not learned from any man. Tho' I wish success to every thing that may promote the kingdom of Christ, and to those who engage in it; yet, as I hinted before, I believe God will convert the whole world in a way that man could not have thought of: it will be miraculous and sudden: and he will, as I said, let it be seen that it is his own work. All acknowledge that the present wars and commotions in Europe are different from all former ones; and they say the end of the world is at hand. I think the present troubles are the beginning of sorrows; — but the end is not yet. Many prophecies are to be fulfilled: and tho' God can do a great work in a short time; yet very ~~display of his omnipotence~~ little will be gradually fulfilled: and then he will make a manifest display of his omnipotence. It is in this sense I understand that word in Isaiah before quoted — of the people there was none with me. Hitherto he has used Instruments, or worked by second causes: but then, the Lamb alone shall overcome, or he will take to himself the victory, and the whole glory shall be ascribed to him both by Angels and men. I have been the more particular in these two things, because they are my own thoughts, which I have not learned from man, yet I do not desire you or any other implicitly to believe them: but you may leave them with your friends as my opinion; and if I should change it before I die, I will let you know it. — Were I to give you a sketch of the history of Methodism in England, I know not where I should end. A new war or strife has broke out, occasioned partly by a pamphlet written by a traveling preacher in the North. He proposed a new constitution among Meth—ts, to give the people more share in the management of affairs, and proposing many regulations in several things I entirely approve of many of these regulations; but many of the preachers are up in arms against him, and have written against him. Many of the people and some of the preachers are for him, He has discovered some things, which the preachers did not choose the people should know.

I know there is much truth in what he says. and tho' I do not approve of every thing he has proposed; yet I like his honesty. He is to be tried at the Conference, and probably be cast out. — But he is very bold, and thinks he will have many friends to support him. There will be hott work at this Conference, and therefore I intend going to the Sea at that time, and not be present at it as I could do no good, neither would it be a time profitable to my soul. Many of the preachers here had got such an Idea of their own greatness and power after Mr W—s death, that they began to despise all men and to trample their own people under their feet. Now, GOD is punishing them, and suffering them to scourge one another. My friend B— foresaw many things, which are now coming to pass. In one of his letters he says — Some men among us seem to love to be in the fire; and I am of opinion the people will give them enough of it. We are apt to flatter ourselves that all our proceedings are right, but I fear God will chasten us by the people whom we have slighted. Who can acquit us of the charge of loving money? I am sure there is more din about it than ever before: and as the people begin to take the alarm, they will magnify every appearance of it into an enormous reality. That there is an appearance of desiring to reign as Lords without the people is also true, and I judge will be more and more resented. — I dined lately with a Fellow of the College, at a friend's house who seems to be a truly pious man: It is not unlikely that GOD will bring back by degrees the regular Clergy; especially if we fulfill not his own designs. — But we hope he will purge the Body and make us more holy." — These things foretold by my friend I have lived to see come to pass. We are becoming every day more infamous in the eyes even of other serious people in the land, by our contentions with each other; and the bad conduct of a few brings reproach upon all. Whilst the pious part of the Nation are grieved the Infidels are the more hardened, by observing and hearing of these things among us. GOD is however raising up many pious Ministers in the Church and in the Colleges; and he will let Methodists see that he can send by other people as well as them: and he would have none to boast, or to despise his neighbour. — According as a people or an individual, get power, or rise from a low State, they are apt to grow insolent and overbearing. If I understand right the Methodists in America are leaning a little this way too. Mr A—y was at first low and humble, but is raised to great power, but whether he exercises that power arbitrarily or no I can't say. We see that the same spirit breaths in every clime. Yet still I would not have you puzzle yourself much about these things. You know the foundation is sure. I think the Methodist doctrines are the best. But I see how needful it is at this day, not only to be grounded in doctrines; but to be experimentally with the Truth as it is in Jesus. I have sometimes reflected on the severe trials of Christians in those times alluded to Rev: 13. 13. 14. 15. Men may be deceived by the arguments of Deists as well as by the tricks and cunning of the Papists: therefore they only who are intimately acquainted with GOD, and united to him, will be able to stand in the perilous times that are approaching. —

My Dear Sister London June 14: 1796

About the begining of May I wrote to you which I sent with two books, one for you and one for B.-- &c. On the 5th of May Brot. Wm arrived here, and staid with me three days. He came to England to buy some things, having removed to Drogheda. He is much worn, and exercised in mind about many things; but after all, his circumstances at leaving Killeshandra were better than when he went to it; and he has left it with an honest character. Brot. R.. was ill about 2 months ago; but he is better. He is left lonely without his relations; as he felt sorely when you left him; but the Lord visits him now and then; and I trust all things will work together for his good. They are pretty quiet there since you left it, as the papists are kept in awe by the Army: and they are in a state of prosperity in temporals, as they had a great demand last year for every thing they had to sell. But all is uncertain, as very probably there will be revolutions both there and here; tho' perhaps we shall ~~[illegible]~~ not live to see them. I fear more and more for the rising generation; but let us endeavour to do our part, and leave the event to God. Perhaps it may be better with our children than we fear. In temporals, indeed, I believe they will be much better off than we were: but temporal prosperity has seldom proved beneficial to the soul. The prayer of Agur seems to point out what is most desirable for us. There is something strangely infatuating in riches to contract the heart, to draw it down to earth, and to alienate it from God. But riches might be made a blessing to thousands. Robt. says a Mrs Hetherton at Drumgolah died lately remarkably triumphant. She called the Society, told them her experience, and exhorted them, which was so blessed that there is a revival among them since. She was one of the first 14 whom I joined, they have all stood, except the man who first gave in his name, and never appeared afterwards: some of them are gone safe home. This is matter of great thankfulness. There is a Clergyman a Mr. A.. about the County Carlow, who is doing much good among the Methodists in that Cy. He does not preach in the Church, as he resigned and has something of his own to live on. He is very simple, plain, and humble. I hear of a few more pious Clergymen in Dublin and some other parts of Ireland, I trust God will increase their number. In England there are many who preach Christ, and the most essential doctrines of Christianity; tho' most of them lean to Calvinism. However, it is matter of great thankfulness that Christ, the foundation, is laid by them: because Infidelity and Deism are gaining ground. The lower class of people were hitherto only Deists in practice; but now they begin to be so in principle also. Thos. Paine's writings have done them much harm, which they have read with great eagerness. In his late Book which he calls the Age of Reason, he endeavours to overthrow all religion, except Deism; turns Christianity into redicule, and laughs at the Bible, saying it is nothing but fables and deceptions, and full of inconsistencies and such stuff. Others had often written to the same purport before; but their writings were in the

hands of the higher class for the most part. There are many answers to Paine already, and I suppose there will be many more. But whoever would meet Deists properly must meet them on their own ground, and must be men of abilities and reading: arguments drawn from the Bible will not do with them, because they deny it, and consequently all argu=ments drawn therefrom will not convince them.

For my own part all I see, read, and hear in the world at this day, only serve to confirm me more and more in the truths recorded in the Bible. Both our Lord and his Apostles foretold that there would be a falling away, or a general defection from revealed Truth before the second com=ing of Christ. When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith upon earth? Luke 18.8 — 2 Thess: 2.3. Every thing that has happened in France confirms me in the Belief of the Bible. Infidelity is become one means of destroying Superstition and the power or influence of Popery. It has done more in this way, in a few years, than the gentler methods of instruction &c could have done in several Centuries. God frequently works in a way that man could not have foreseen: and he will destroy Infide=lity, as well as Superstition in some extraordinary manner: and it will be in some sudden as well as extraordinary way. In the mean time, he makes use of Deism or Infidelity as a rod to sweep away the refuge of lies, and all the trumpery and mystery of the Mother of har=lots; but he will throw away or burn the rod by and bye: and will dispel all darkness by the brightness of his own appearance. Some of the Texts that induce me to think thus, are — Isaiah 63. 3.4.5.6. Rev. 19.13.14. 15.16. It seems to me that both these passages refer to one event, which is yet to come to pass. The passage in Isaiah has been often mista=ken and misapplied, by some even of our Preachers. It does not re=fer to the death or sufferings of Christ at all; but to a victory over his enemies. He treads the wine-press of the wrath of God alone. He is the Executioner of God's vengeance upon a wicked and un=godly world: and he will do it in such a manner as to convince the whole Universe, Angels as well as men, that it is his own work: and that his own right hand gets him the victory. The 53 ch: of Isaiah relates to his death and sufferings; but the 63 ch: to his final victory. Compare the passages above in 63d of Isaiah, and 19th of the Rev. and weigh them maturely; and then impress this Idea on your acquain=tance, at least your own family; that they may convey it to others, when we are numbered with the dead. I think I see the three last verses of the 17th of Rev: exactly fulfilling at this time. Indeed all prophecies relating to the destruction of the popish hierarchy are ac=complishing fast: and the French are so far advanced in their vic=tories in Italy, that it is said the Pope trembles on his throne, and is about to fly to England for refuge. How wonderful is this! The Popes formerly issued their curses or Anathemas against this Nation; and now their Priests, and even their Bishops and Popes are flying to it for protection! —— But what shall I prophecy of Briton and the Inhabitants thereof? Are we much better than others? Very little, I fear. Tho' favoured with greater light, and priveleges we have not improved them as much as we might: and the love of many is waxed cold.

the christian temper is preserved. They are, indeed, totally different both in their source, their nature, and their tendency, from those internal feelings of the mind which inseparably accompany convictions for sin, and true justifying faith in Christ. These are produced by the truths of revealed religion proposed to the understanding, clearly understood, firmly believed, and by the ~~energy~~ influence of a divine agency accompanying ~~convictions for sin~~ them, applied with energy to our own individual state. Their nature and tendency are equally distinct from the sensations above mentioned ~~external causes and out of our power to prevent~~ Yet these sensations arising from external causes, and out of our own power to prevent, may in some circumstances rise to that height, as to produce for a season, a cloudiness and heaviness upon the most sincere mind; in which case, the comfort or joy generally following a justified state, will not be so strongly felt, nor so distinctly perceived as before. This is the reason why young converts so generally fall into doubts and perplexities concerning their state merely through ignorance of the distinction they ought to make, between the effects of sensations on the human constitution occasioned by external objects or circumstances, and the true evidences of their acceptance with God. Hence also we see the principle on which we may safely maintain, that doubts and fears are consistent with justifying faith.

Perhaps few preachers of the Gospel have sufficiently studied the present state of human nature, to be able to clear the difficulties which sometimes accompany christian experience. Some have asserted, that no doubting can consist with the least degree of true faith: that whoever at any time felt any doubt or fear, is not weak in faith, but has no faith at all: and that none hath any faith, till the law of the spirit of life has made him wholly free from the law of sin and death. — But doth not St. Paul in 1 Cor. 3.1. speak of those whom he terms babes in Christ, who were not able to bear strong meat? nay, who were, in a sense, carnal. to whom he nevertheless says, Ye are God's building, ye are the temple of God. Surely then these men had some degree of faith, though it is plain their faith was but weak."—

Other Extracts

"The learning which disposes us to affect a superiority over other men, is too generally attended by a forgetfulness of God: and it has therefore been well observed, that knowledge, tho' a good thing in itself, as light is when compared to darkness, is apt to puff us up: while charity, which is an humble and submissive virtue, edifieth; that is, builds us up in the way of grace, and makes us better christians. So far as knowledge, tho' of the purest sort inspires pride, just so far it extinguishes devotion.

"Some suppose that an appearance of godly zeal, and a passion to save souls, will supply the defects of christian knowledge: but without it, there will not be christian prudence; and such persons, neglecting to inform themselves, suffer under the want of judgment, and are carried into delusion, of which they do not see the consequences. Ignorent piety, like ignorent ingenuity, must go to school, before it will be able to work surely and with good effect: It must itself be taught before it can be fit to teach others.

"There is a danger to man on every side: learning is tempted to overlook piety; and piety thinks there is no use of learning. Happy is he who preserves himself from both these errors: who while he seeks wisdom, applies it first to the reformation of his own life, and then to the lives of other men."

My dear Sister

London Mar: 28 1796

As I have had no account from you later than Novr. I begin to have fears. I wrote soon after I recd. your Letter; but as the storms at Sea have been great, perhaps my letter is lost, or you have not yet recd. it. If you are alive, or able to write I shall expect to hear from you or some else of the rest. — I need say nothing concerning the shortness and uncertainty of human life; as every day gives us fresh proofs of what has been said a thousand times. Let us dwell upon it as a pleasing, rather than a melancholy thought; that we are to spend so short a time in this world of shadows, pain and death; — and indulge the hope that we shall soon enter into light, life, and joy. — Let us sing in the following words. —

"Vanish then this world of shadows, Pass the former things away:
"Lord appear, appear to glad us With the dawn of endless Day.
"O conclude this mortal Story; Throw the Universe aside:
"Come Eternal King of Glory, Now descend and take thy Bride.

Myself and family have got thro' the winter much better than years past: thanks to our merciful Preserver! I long to hear from you, if you are still on this side Jordan. Those words often occur to me: "Some of our friends have crossed the flood, and some are crossing now". —

I have not heard from our friends in Ireland since Jany. I believe the people have been safer this winter than the former, thot. I hear there have been great outrages and murders in some places. Our crimes, as a Nation are calling down judgments upon us; and yet I do not perceive any sign of a general repentance, or a forsaking of evil. Our provisions, and every necessary article are risen beyond conception. We had a National Fast on the 9th of Mar: I preached in the forenoon from Hosea 5. 15. — I had for some time been undetermined what Text to choose: but from a general view of things, and the way God had taken to deal with his rebellious children in former ages, I am inclined to think we must suffer more yet, as a Nation, before we will be truly humbled. God seems to hide his face, or (speaking after the manner of men) to go away, and leave us to ourselves, How dreadful must be the case of a people, a family, or individuals, so left of GOD! —

Among other of our national crimes I took notice of that horrid Trade of Slaves: which encourages much bloodshed on the coast of Africa, as well as the cruelty shewn to the Slaves afterwards. I observed that blood always cries for vengeance from the ground, and will be avenged sooner or later: And that the earth will now no longer cover it, but will as it were, disclose it. Isaih: 26. 21. My family join me in love to you and all the rest of our friends with you. May we all meet on the blissful shore! —

Farewell! J. C—

since he is so liberal in bestowing? and to faith we should add hope. This is a blessed anchor to the soul, when it is tossed by storms and winds blowing from various quarters. It enters within the vail, and lays hold of a landing place in the fair havan, the haven of eternal rest. A few years ago I put the following lines on Hope into our Magazine.

Oh Hope, sweet flatterer! thy soft, soothing touch
Sheds on afflicted minds a balmy joy;
Relieves the load of poverty, sustains
The captive bending with the weight of bonds:
And smooths the pillow of disease and pain."

For more than two months past I have been exercised with the most extraordinary conflicts of mind, on acct. of my disagreeable situation among the ~~***~~ here; so that I could get little or no sleep at night, and some attacks from colds, rheumatism, &c: and what is worst I have no friend to converse with, who could sympathize with me. I can have no help from my own family. I got a letter from Bror. Robt. at the same time with yours; and imediately gave him an acct. as contained in yours. He spent some time at the salt water near Drog.a; he is in some respects better, but is still burthened with many things, & he dare not go much abroad to fairs, as he understands the Defenders are resolved to murder him, because he was on the jury when one of them was hanged at Cavan last Spring: They are still rising in some places, and setting fire to Towns, notwithstanding the army is very numerous, and some are placed in almost every town. Some houses were burned one night in Cavan some time ago, but the flames were got under by the activity of the army. They set the Town of Kells on fire in three places at once, but I believe not much damage ensued. It seems to me there will be bloody work in that kingdom some time or other; for those papists are a wicked blood-thirsty set. I am very apprehensive we shall have troubles here before long, as many people are dissatisfied.

My dear Sisters, let us endeavour to meet in Spirit, and draw each other into God. In him we must unite, as he is our centre; and from him our inexhaustible fountain we must draw streams of everlasting bliss. And let me quote some of my own lines sent to Nancy two years ago:—

"What! tho' we now are parted wide,
And swelling billows intervene:
Our Spirits nothing shall divide,
Nor Seas nor Oceans come between."

"My Sisters dear shall join the choir,
Exulting with the spotless train:
And whilst they all to praise aspire,
You'll vie to raise a loftier strain."

"My fellow-sufferers, wait a while,
And patiently pursue your way;
Tho' now you weep, you soon shall smile,
And bask in an unclouded day."

With respect to your joining any Church or Society of people, I am mostly of the same judgment as when I wrote to you before. ~~You must be~~ ~~[illegible]~~. You must be a little on your guard, how far you put yourself under the implicit power of any man or number of men. I have seen power grossly abused here. and the same may be done in America too, for human nature is the same in every clime. It is commonly said, we ~~should~~ ought to be joined to some Church or professing people; but tho' this may be true in a sense, yet we may be sometimes as well, and enjoy the outward privileges of hearing, without entering into a closer union. This has advantages, and sometimes very great disadvantages. Itinerancy is excellent in some respects; but a man may do much mischief in a place, and then remove to another where the people do not know him and consequently are not on their guard. Whereas when a man is long resident in a place, his virtues or his vices may be the more readily known. I hope God will direct you in these matters. Tho' you must get acquaintance, even for the temporal things; yet let your intimate friends be few, with whom you may secretly converse about your experience and the things of God. There is a kind of peace made among the Meth in England, for they have been dreadfully convulsed for a few years, to the disgrace of religion. Matters are like to go better this year in London, in some respects; tho' my opinion of some of the contending parties on both sides is just the same. There are some among the people as well as the preachers, whom I cannot approve, or have union with, tho' I strive to be on civil terms. Dr. W— is now fix'd here at one of our great Chapels &c.— Bread and almost every thing is excessively high; so that I know not how matters will turn out, but when the people feel, they must complain. I can scarcely tell how we are brought thro' but the Lord hath hitherto brought me thro' this howling wilderness; and I still trust he will provide. It is ~~a~~ doubtful whether I shall get thro' this winter any severe attack would soon finish me: my family all unite in love with me to you and the rest of our dear friends in America. Let us make use of the little time we have, to write to each other: our hand as well as head will soon lie inactive in the dust. May Jehovah preserve you and us till we all meet above!!! Farewell! —— J. C. ——

An Extract concerning Christian Experience.

"When we consider the constant vicissitude of things around us, the occasions of temtation continually presented to our senses, and the nature of the human constitution, liable to receive various impressions from external things and circumstances against our will; we may pronounce it impossible that we should always enjoy an uniformity, or perpetual sameness of agreeable sensations, and consequently not the same degree of religious joy. Properly speaking the whole set of sensations arising from the sources just mentioned, with the imaginations of the mind arising from them whether agreeable, or painful, even to melancholy, are no evidences of any change in our relation to God, because not imputed to us as sin, while

limited before, our understanding must be very imperfect, as long as we are here: But, Oh what celestial light will break in upon the heaven-born soul in the morning of the resurrection; when all the clouds of ignorance which formerly confused and perplexed the troubled mind, will forever fly away! Then it will proceed from one degree of light, life, and perfection to another, thro' the countless ages of Eternity! The whole Angelic Order, and all the celestial Spirits above, are in a progressive state, still advancing to higher degrees of knowledge, glory and perfection, to all Eternity. At the creation of this earth the Angels knew more than they did when themselves were created, For then the morning-stars sang together, and all the Sons of God shouted for joy. Job. 38.7. At the Incarnation of Christ they knew more; and still more at his Ascension. And when the Secrets of all hearts shall be revealed at the general judgment, and the intricacies of Providence are unravelled; they will certainly know more still than they can do at present. Hence they acquire more extensive views of the wisdom and power exerted and manifested in the divine administration; and, consequently, must be in a progressive state of improvement. What is said of Angels, will also hold good with respect to the glorified saints. They will enjoy the same priveleges and advantages, and be under the same auspicious government, as the native sons of heaven. What a glorious prospect is this! The Sun may grow dim; the sparkling Stars may lose their light; and mighty Systems sink into oblivion; but the duration of the sincere Christian shall be eternal! the spring of his bliss for ever fresh, for ever flowing; and the delight of his enraptured soul for ever encreasing! How transporting the consideration, that in some future period of our existance, we shall arrive at more wisdom, splendor, and excellence, than the Angels possess now. The whole rational and intellectual world are in motion; and the nobler they are in their nature, their progress will still be swifter. They will be for ever approaching to, but can never possibly arrive at absolute Perfection. God will for ever dwell in light inaccessable: he will be for ever infinitely superior to all created beings. —

"The rational natives of this world, according to their states and circumstances in the different dispensation of God, may be distinguished into three classes. 1 Those that have not had the light of the Gospel among them. 2 Those that have it, but believe not unto righteousness or justification. 3 Those that have it, and have so believed. The first of these (tho' they are not favoured with a covenant which holds out a promise of pardon, and eternal life) yet have the wrath (or anger) of God against Sin revealed to them: and trial is made of those moral powers, which God has given them, that even in their dark state, they may feel after (reach out their hands as it were) Him, and find him, in a nearer access to them. The second are tried in a fuller sense. They may be said to be translated from death to life, from the kingdom of Satan, to that of the Son of God. Trial is made, what they will do for peace, and everlasting reconciliation with God. An inestimable prize is imediately put into their hands. The third have so received the Gospel as to believe unto justification. The probation of these is different now from both the former. They are not tried, what they will do, in order to pardon: for this they have obtained already. But how they will gratefully acquit themselves in their new state; how they will improve the grace they have received: how they will walk worthy of the Lord, and their heavenly vocation, and gain a farther meetness for the blessed life to which they are entitled; or a higher degree of glory, when their Lord shall call them to an account. In this respect, and on this ground, their services and acts of Gospel-Obedience may suitably enough, be called into view at the great day, before the universal Judge.

These having at the beginning of this probation State, been justified by faith in Christ's blood, may at the end of it be said to be judged according to their works. In their justified State, their obedience as well as their persons, is accepted in the beloved; and, for his sake, set down to their comfortable account, at the day of the Lord Jesus. Thus they that receive one Talent (in the light of nature;) and they that receive ~~five~~ two Talents (in the light of nature and of the Gospel) and they that receive five (in the receipt of all those spiritual blessings, that are in and from Christ) are intrusted with them by way of trial, and are commanded to occupy, in order to the Lord's coming. Though they are justified, yet their State of probation is not abrogated thereby. Their mortification of Sin, and abounding in the work of the Lord, may still be encouraged and excited by the proposal of a greater reward, at the day of public account."

Respecting the merit of Christ, Divines distinguish between Satisfaction and merit. Satisfaction cancels Sin, and gives right to impunity. Merit is supposed to go higher, and to give right to reward. Christ does more for us than merely to procure impunity. In impunity is implied forgiveness, justification, and a present Salvation from all past guilt. But Christ merits not only this, but heaven also. It had been a great favour had he reinstated us in that Eden, out of which Adam was banished; but he procured and prepares for us also a heavenly paradise; or a title to the new Jerusalem, to Mansions in his Father's house above. Should a King freely pardon a criminal, it would be a great favour; but if he moreover confers upon him some honour, or bestows an Estate it is far greater: Christ does both for those that believe in and follow him. He will advance them to the dignity of co-heirs with himself; to an exceeding weight of glory.

"We need not suppose that the heavenly State is all one uniform unvaried Scene, throughout all ages: that no variety of prospects, affairs, or pleasures or employments can be there admitted. Possibly there may be great alterations and revolutions there as in Empires here; only not for the worse; but for the improvement, entertainment and satisfaction of the delighted subjects."

I give you these extracts to fill up part of my paper, as they may be more useful than anything I can write, and they may afford you a subject for reflection at some future leisure moments.— The use we should make of such reflections should be to enlarge the mind, to encourage and animate our hopes, and to banish unbelieving fears. Oh! what wonderful effects doth faith produce! It helps us over the hills of difficulty, or sinks them to a plain. It helps us to get forward with more ease, or enables us to stand still, even in the present trying ~~hour~~ moment, to see the Salvation of God. Reflect a little upon that word— Araunah gave as a king to David, and bade him take what he pleased. (See 2 Sam: 24. 22. 23) He gave as a king, nobly & liberally. But what will the King of kings do for us? Why more than we can ask or think: and he will do it in a munificent, abundant, and liberal manner. Why then should we be stinted in asking

wound, whil at the sore is festering within, and will sometime or other break out again. I do not see any humiliation in those who had been most guilty, nor have they confessed their faults one to another. For a few years past I thought, respecting us, that judgment was begun at the house of God; but I think a more sifting time is coming on. May Jehovah shelter and protect us in the trying hour! —— I had some expectation that I should get to the havan of rest, before the evil day; and indeed my thread of life is worn very small: but if I must suffer more, I trust my God will some way or other bring me through. ——

As our time is so short and uncertain, let us endeavour to devote ourselves and our families to God more than ever. I used formerly, according to agreement, to strive to meet you and my friends at the Throne of grace a little after one oclock: but as that hour may sometimes interfere with other business, I am now think-ing ~~thinking~~ of fixing friday evening from eight to nine oclock, for secret prayer. It is possible I may be in Eternity before you receive this; but you may write to me as usual, untill you hear of my death. I have no particuler forebod-ing at present, only every winter brings down my poor shattered frame near-er and nearer to the dust. I am indeed a miracle to myself, and I believe others are surprised too, tho' they do not speak out. Oh! shall we all at length meet in the havan of rest! I trust we shall. We know we have a good Pilot, and we have need of such an one; for there are many rocks and dangers on every hand, and many tempests to pass thro'. Let us therefore look to Him who sitteth above the water floods, and stilleth the waves of the sea.

"Through waves, and clouds, and storms,
He gently clears thy way; &c"

Let us endeavour to put on the whole armour of God, and fight the good fight of faith. It may well be called wrestling and fighting.

O thou mighty Jehovah, gird up the loins of our minds, and uphold us in our goings, that our footsteps slip not! Jesus Master, save us and suffer us not to sink, but conduct us safe to Land!

"Some of our friends have crossed the flood
And some are crossing now;
We are to the margin come, And we ~~expect to~~ must shortly die. &c"

Ah! my dear dear Sisters, I must now bid you adieu. We are se=parated indeed by the great deep; but I trust neither life nor death, nor any creature shall separate our spirits from God, nor from each other. My children are all well, they and my wife join me in love to you and all our friends with you. To God's grace, and merciful protection I commit you. May he guide and comfort you by his spirit through all the stages of life, and finally receive you to glory! Amen.

Yours as ever J. C. ——

By mistake the foregoing letter was inserted before the following one.

My very dear Sister

London Octr: 14. 1795

Your long—expected and wished for Letter is just come to my hand; the sight of which, even before I opened it, affected me much: but Oh! what did I feel, on reading its contents! Well: notwithstanding all your afflictions, I bless the Lord on your behalf, who hath thus far preserved ~~and~~ you, and I trust he will save to the end. I have been reflecting on the mercies and providential care of our gracious Preserver, who gave you some strength to attend the rest in their Sickness, and when you were ill and cast down they could in some measure, take care of you. Oh! that we may always praise the Lord for his goodness, and declare unto others what he still doth, and is ever ready to do for the children of men! You have seen and experienced a little of what the Psalmist beautifully describes in the 107th Psalm: viz: "They that go down to the sea in Ships, see the wonders of the Lord in the deep: &c." I hope T— will now give himself to work. If he attends to business, and keeps from bad company, he may become a great man. Tell him this from me. There is a kind of ambition which is laudable; and this and such like may stir him up to improve himself. Now is the time for him to improve in every respect, and to lay up knowledge, as well as to acquire grace, that may be of use to himself and others in his advanced years. I trust that he and you will yet see better days; and that he will prove the staff of your old age. May God turn the bias of his nature into a right channel in the days of his youth! for I see that a great deal may be learned and done even in this short life, if we set out betimes, and use industry and application. Our earthy bodies, indeed, are a great clog to the Spirit, and here we see thro' a glass darkly but when we shake them off, or get others more refined, we shall proceed rapidly in the circle of knowledge, and proceed to higher degrees of perfection, still advancing nearer and nearer to the Deity; who is infinite in every respect, and therefore there will be still room for us to advance to all Eternity. This has been long my private judgment. Perhaps I have mentioned them before to you, but tis a pleasing theme to dwell upon. I was greatly confirmed in this opinion, by reading two pamphlets within these two years: one written about 20 years ago, being conjectures concerning the Angelical world: the other written by a Scotchman near 40 years ago, concerning the soul's progress towards perfection thro' all Eternity. The human soul, as being derived from God, or as a spark of the ethereal fire, is capable of great things, notwithstanding its fallen state. It is capable of being enlarged and expanded, to comprehend more and more. Now, the thought of this is animating and encouraging: especially the thought that thro' what our blessed Lord hath done for us, we may attain a higher degree of knowledge and felicity than Adam had when created. For, tho' God pronounced all things which he had made, then very good; yet we see every thing around us in the vegetable, and animal world is in a state of progress towards maturity: and tho' these bodies grow old and decay, & our reasoning faculty is clouded by them when they grow weak, or are affected by a fever or other disease; yet we are to distinguish between the soul itself and its operations, or the exercise of the reasoning faculty. The defect is in the body, not in the soul. It is sin alone that can impair or darken the soul. Indeed there is a wonderful connection between the body and the mind, and therefore as

than ever among us. &c —— In the matter of Church Government, the religious world hath been greatly divided in every age: circumstances of time and place must be taken into consideration: and therefore cannot lay down a general rule: and I think this will be the case till Christ comes to reign spiritually, and direct his Church universally. See Isaiah 52: 8. In the mean time, I would not have you or any person to put themselves so under the absolute dominion of any man, or denomination of men, that they may control your conscience, or command your pocket just as they please. This has been practised in popish times, and it has been aimed at by some others in later times, tho' in a more refined and subtle manner. They have had a way of holding out people's names to the public, either by hints, or otherwise, as to terrify ~~them~~ weak minds, and in some measure to compel them to bend their conscience, lest they should be exposed, or fall under the lash of ecclesiastical censure. I don't mean now the excluding for sin, or any thing of that nature; for it is readily granted that disorderly walkers should be by some method removed from the flock. You will think a little about these things, and I trust God will direct you by his Spirit. It is true, that with you every denomination is upon an equal footing, and on that ground they have a right to administer the Ordinances, and to make such rules as they see necessary. Matters are therefore different with you from what they were in Ireland; therefore after you see how things are, you will be the better able to judge for yourself. It is generally said that one should belong to some denomination of Christians or other; and there seems to be somewhat of reason in this. I have always been liberal in my sentiments, and am far from being bigotted to what is called the Church of England, tho' I was bred in it. The good are mingled with all denominations of men, in every country and in every clime. I hope there are good men there among those who are called Ch: of England men, and that you may be spiritually edified among them; but, as I said before, we must lay aside, as much as may be, all narrowness of mind, and be ready to admit what we see good among all denominations of men. I therefore leave you to act as you shall see best, after you have waited for a time in order to receive farther light. But, beware of giving yourself up wholly to the spiritual domination of any men upon earth. Let every person be fully persuaded in his own mind; for every one must render an account unto God. Every place has its disadvantages, and we must strive to bear the ills of life, for we live in a disordered world, which is not our home. We may certainly expect to meet the cross wherever we go; let us therefore be prepared for it and, ~~and~~ manfully fight under the banner of Christ against all our spiritual foes. I hope our friends about C—n will be somewhat safer this winter than the last, as there is so much of the military about them, tho' they do not depend upon an arm of flesh. &c &c If they had peace at home and abroad, that kingdom would prosper in a temporal sense: but the misfortune is, in times of prosperity men are more prone to forget God, and desire not a knowledge of his ways. You see this is the case even in those places where you now are, tho' it is not long since they felt the dreadful consequences of war, of a civil war which is the worst of all others. All this only confirms what has been said a thousand times, and what is recorded of the peculiar people of God of old: for when Jesurun waxed fat he kicked. Adversity indeed is not joyous but grievious; and therefore the desire of Agur seems most safe — "give me neither poverty nor riches" &c. —— I believe there is no great danger of you or your friends being too rich in your day; but some of your posterity may; and therefore you must preach to them both by precept and

example, and prepare their minds for a reverse of circumstances, either from bad to good, or from good to worse. There is a beautiful sentiment to this purport in one of the heathen Poets, the English of which is — "A mind which is well prepared, hopes in adversity, and fears in prosperity another state or condition." — I have often thought of that word — It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth. By being enured early to difficulties and disappointments, we are prepared to meet greater storms and blasts, as we advance in life. But, when men have acquired a genteel living by their own industry, they are too apt to leave GOD out of the account, and to say in their heart, — my own hand hath gotten me this wealth? — Therefore you must inculcate this precept at all times, — give all diligence, both in a temporal and spiritual sense; but be always ready to give GOD the glory, when there is an increase.

Every article of life here is risen to such a height, that the people are driven to their wits end; and are ready to rise, were they not kept in awe by the army. There is also a great ferment in the whole kingdom at present, on account of a Law going to be passed, to restrain public assemblies which are called seditious meetings. The Governt is stretching matters very far, and the people are ready to rebel. We are therefore in fear of a disturbance every hour; and the times, in many respects, seem very awful. GOD has lifted his rod over this as well as other Lands. We have long been highly favoured, and yet we have not been faithful to the day of our visitation; therefore the Lord seems ready to give us over either to the famine, or a civil war, or both. The wheat, it is said, has greatly failed, and others blame this war for the scarcity; but whilst they blame one another, I fear both parties leave GOD out of the question, or do not acknowledge his hand in this thing. The great men are divided in judgment, and so are the people: and it is easy to judge what the effect will be when a nation is divided. I believe there will be more and more convulsions in the earth, and perilous times before the kingdom of Christ is established. It is the business of those who fear God, to cleave close to him, and to hide under the shadow of his wings, until the indignation be overpast. The vials seem to be pouring out; but I think the end is a great way off yet; and there are many things to be fulfilled; tho' we know GOD can perform a great deal in a little time. — The protestants and Defenders had a great battle about two months ago near Armagh. Many of the Defs were killed, and very few of the protestants. The Defs were dispersed; but what the end of these things will be none can tell. Neither party in Ireland, nor we in this kingdom seem to be truly humbled before GOD, or to acknowledge his judgments. ———

Alas! what times do we live in! My trials here seem to increase as I cannot unite in spirit with some men at the head of affairs; and they can readily prejudice the people against me, except it be a few discerning persons. The conflicts of my mind have been very great for three months past; and I have none to take counsel with. It is true GOD is here, and he is my only refuge. I believe all these things are working together for my good: they drive me to prayer, in which I should otherwise be too languid. I am striving to keep at a civil distance, as it is the only way of safety. I endeavour to keep them at bay and say nothing. What they complain of me most now is that I do not come among them, when they are all at peace with one another. This they think strange; but from past experience I see I should be in danger to be dragged in one way or other to support their measures. The peace they have made I look upon to be only a political one, tho' that is better than war. but it is like skinning a

when we are brought to an extremity, we are obligid to this. And he often in tender mercy permits us to be brought into such a strait, as that we are obligid to submit to him, and to say — "do as thou wilt." What he doth now, we know not, but we shall know hereafter. It seems as if this late affair, respecting your husband's illness, is one leading circumstance for you to leave Cavan, and perhaps to leave the kingdom. People, who might have condemned you before for leaving the place or your business, will now be more inclined to say — "They could not help it." —

I think it best for you to go to Newry, where you will see your son, who ought to go with you, if you go. I know not how far the Govern^t. may interfere. If you are detained a little longer, look upon it as the hand of God, and hope that it will turn out some way for the best. Perhaps some of your friends will then be ready or willing to go with you. I think many of them are in a worse situation than you, in some respects. Young children are a very great weight to the mind, and an exercise to the body. Your husband's situation, respecting his mind, is undoubtedly very trying to you; but it will serve to teach you to look to the Lord alone for wisdom and support, and commit your cause to him. Thro' clouds and storms he will clear your way: But much clouds and darkness hang over affairs in this world, and perhaps will do so untill the end, or at least till God is pleased to give a clearer revelation of his will. I think there will be more and more light before the end. The life of religion seems to be departing from the Methodists as a Body; tho' I hope there is good doing in various places. And I suppose this is partly the case in America as well as here, for human nature is the same in every clime. and therefore we must not wonder at any thing that we see among ourselves, or hear of elsewhere. we must therefore strive to make the best of this bad world, be in some measure useful in it, and then get to a better. I know not what to advise, as all have their defects; and you must not expect perfection on this side Eternity. In the nature of things, people of different constitutions, complexions, and education, will differ in many things. They must therefore learn to bear with one another, and to make allowance for one another. Do not expect too much from a people, or from individuals and then you will not be disapointed. I still think the Methodists, as a Body, have more of real religion among them than any other people. In certain cases, you may be subject sometimes of meeting with bad treatment, or tyranny from their spiritual guides. Now it is natural for us all, to love liberty, at least a liberty of mind. But, from long observation, I see that some here and elsewhere are in a kind of bondage in this respect. They are not allowed to think for themselves, or if the should differ from their Teachers in any thing, they will be treated with some degree of disrespect. They are often threatned with expulsion or some mark of infamy, which has hitherto terrified many, and kept them in bondage: but I think the world will not bear this much longer; for common sense will prevail, and mankind began to dare to think for themselves. The meeting in class is a good thing; but like all other good things it may be abused. be on your guard ~~which~~ with whom you unite at least untill you know with whom or what their dispositions are. — You will see the reason of this, as you become more acquainted with the world. ——— But I trust the Holy Spirit will direct you in all things, and I recommend you to follow his directions, not mine. I just write down simply what occurs to my mind at present, as the result of my observation. I wish for more light myself in a thousand things: however when

our intention is pure, God will accept of it, notwithstanding our mistakes.— I suppose if you go, you will go to N. Y. first, and afterwards you will strive to follow the leadings of Providence. The remainder of our pilgrimage is short therefore let us keep our eye upon a better country. Remember "we are travelling thro' Immanuels ground to fairer worlds on high." Let us then build each other up in our most holy faith. "We shall be conquerors all ere long, and more than conquerors too."

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London Decr 1st 1795

My dear Sister

I have just rec.^d yours of the 20th of Sep.^r, and am thankful that you are yet spared to your family and friends. And as you and they are thus far preserved by the mercy of a kind indulgent God, I trust you and they will set out afresh, and devote yourselves more than ever to his service, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. He has brought up thy soul, as it were, from the grave: in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. The dealings of God with his creatures here are mysterious, and a great deep: but we may rest assured they are all equal and right, and tho' here we see but thro' a glass darkly we shall by and by see all things cleared up; and God will be fully justified. I would have you not to reason now whether it was the will of God that you should be where you are; for neither you nor I can tell whether it was or was not: but it is your business to go forward, both in a spiritual and in a temporal sense; and whatever your hand findeth to do, do it with your might. Lay yourself out to do a little good in your day & while you have a degree of strength, for the clouds of the evening will soon come on, and the days draw nigh wherein there is no pleasure. You may perhaps be of some use to your relations by imparting some light to them, according to what abilities God may give you; and endeavour to walk circumspectly before those around you, that they may have no evil thing to say of you. As to the meeting in class, I know not what to advise. It is, I know, a good thing in itself; but like all other good things, liable to be greatly abused. Indeed, in the present state of things, there is and will be a great deal of evil mixed with the good; and we must endeavour to bear and forbear, as well as we can. I am sure that human nature is the same in America as in Europe, and it is natural for man to aim at power over his fellow men, but where this is assumed by some bred in low life, it is then frequently shockingly abused. There ought indeed to be some order and subordination both in Church and State, and some persons are endowed with gifts better calculated to govern than others. But it often happens, that some persons think themselves qualified, and are fond of exercising the supreme command, before they have learned to obey. This has been the case with many Meth.—preachers in Europe, and as I said before, human nature is the same in every clime. I am told that the hierarchical power among the M.— where you are, is exercised with a more absolute sway,

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My dear Sister April 14th 1795

I have just rec^d. yours of the 9th and can truly feel for you. Surely one trial seldom comes alone. I have often found as it were the storm blowing from every quarter at the same time. Now, tho' this was very grievious, yet upon reflection afterwards, I saw this was God's way of teaching, and if I had seen a way to escape on any hand, I might have looked that way for some comfort or help; but when there was no way to escape, then I was compelled, as it were, to look unto the Lord alone. It is easy to give advice to others, and to quote Scripture too, but it is not so easy, in the trying moment, to exercise faith; and perhaps that very person who gave the advice would find the difficulty, when he himself came to be put to it. However it is our duty to exhort and encourage one another daily, while it is called to day; as soldiers do in battle. We must strive to hope against hope, to struggle against the stream; or to stand still in the midst of the fire, and see the Salvation of God. Jonah, when he was brought to reflexion in the fishes belly, remembered the Lord, and made prayer unto him; and confessed that salvation is of the Lord. I still have hope, and trust that God will bring some good to you out of this evil. — The strong blast is coming upon you all; but tho' you fall into troubles, I trust out of them God will raise you up again. None but he can deliver, and whilst you are using all the common sense you have, you must still look to him. God has his way in the whirlwind, and the wisest are often put to their wits end, and know not what to do. Remember that word. — What I do, thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter. Perhaps this late affair is one means to disengage your husband from his relations and the country. But I only say perhaps; for I cannot yet see thro' the cloud. It is very natural for us to seek to avoid an impending storm, and I see it was often practised by the people of old and by Christians; tho' at other times they were commanded to stand still, even when they were persecuted unto death. You will mark the circumstances as they occur, and even while you are making preparations for your journey, be prepared for a disappointment, or delay: and be ever willing to stop or to come back, if it seems to be the will of God. I know this is easier said than done; however, as I said before we must remind each other of what we know already. I myself am at this present puzzled in my mind to determine whether I shall leave the place I am in &c., as all things are like to be in confusion, not only in the world at large, but with Meth^s. There is for some months past a vacancy for a School near London. The Trustees are my friends; one of them hinted it to me two months ago; but I replied then that I could not undertake it, on acc^t. of my advanced age, and infirmities. Another friend asked me yesterday, if I had ever thought of it. He did not know that the other had mentioned it; but I gave him nearly the same answer as the former. Since yesterday, it has rested on my mind: and I wait to see if it be mentioned to me again, that I may mark the leadings of Providence. As I see see such divisions among some of the preachers, and many other disagreeable things among them I would wish to get away in quiet to a place of peace. But there are many things against my leaving this. One of these is that would hinder, I am named to the Chapel here by Mr. Wesley's will, that I cannot be turned out of it, without immorality; and I might offend some people here par-

ticulerly the Trustees, who wish to keep up the Church service: but then some
of these Trustees are the Trustees for the School; so that I shall do nothing
without their consent. I only mention some of the reasonings in my mind since
yesterday. I have not mentioned it to any one yet. There are three of the head
preachers come here from the Country and are striving to make peace, and to
take the suit out of Chancery. The poor people have been sadly tossed about
and set against one another, by the plausible stories that were told them; and
now ~~they~~ there is near two thousand pounds to pay, partly the debt, and partly
the costs of the Law. And the people I suppose that the connexion will be persuaded to pay it.

There are are visionaries starting up every day, and all denouncing dreadful
things; some of which are coming to pass. I am afraid the evil Spirit has a
hand in these things; tho' he partly tells truth in order to deceive, or to bring
discredit upon religion, by exciting some who profess it, to do things
which are not right. It has often occurred to me of late, that it is written
in the revelation, that the second beast shall even get such power as to
cause fire to come down in the sight of men. The Magicians in Egypt
were permitted to go great lengths, to oppose Moses. The Devil is full of
great wrath at present, knowing that he has but a short time. Yet amidst
all these things I see that God is fulfilling his work; and even most of what
these men say is true, when they speak against Sin, and exhort to repentance
But at the same time, they may be deceived in some respects, and may be
led to think too highly of themselves. You remember that strange affair of the
young Troopers at Belturbet a few years before I left that country, and how he turn-
ed out. —— The man here called Brothers, is now in Bedlam, I hear. But I believe
they can make nothing of him; however they prevent, by this means, people from
coming to him, and so drinking into his principles that are spreading every
where, and thro' all Europe especially. Many other witnesses (as they call
themselves) are starting up and publishing every week. I have read more
of them since I wrote to you last. They confirm what B—s has said. The
parliment man spoke in the parliment house in his favour, but they did
not mind him. One of these pamphlets printed ten days ago, has a long letter
written and sent to the Queen last year, and a letter to Lord Fitzwilliam
lately Ld. Lieutenant with you, reminding him of another letter which
he sent before he went advising him not to go to Ireland, and telling him how
wrong it was for him to assist Antichrist (the papists). The Author is
a merchant at Hull in the North of England, by name Coggan. He
says he is willing to go to prison, or to suffer any thing. Others of these
witnesses say the same thing, that they are not afraid, and that they speak
from the Spirit. —— However, let us attend to the <u>written word</u>, which is
sufficient for us, at least to our own salvation. — Farewell!

To the God of all grace I commit you. Yours &c J. C.

My dear Sister London April 27th 1795

I have just recd yours of the 20th inst: and can only write a few
things at present, as they occur whilst I am writing.

I hope the Lord is opening your way to you, and I trust he will make it still
more clear to you. Endeavour to leave your self and yours in his hands, to
dispose of you as seemeth him best. I know it is not easy to do this; but

nay, we will reflect on them with pleasure, and gratitude to him who brought us through. It appears by what I read and every other circumstance, that the papists will prevail for a time in Ireland; but popery in general is losing ground in the world, and it must, as men get more common sense, and more light. in some things the papists in Ireland are getting more light, respecting their rights and priveleges: but I think the higher class of them should strive to prevent them from those outrages, which will only serve to hurt their cause. There is no doubt but many of the protestants will join them in this respect, in politics, to oppose the British Government, and to assert what they look upon as their civil rights, and they think now is the time to do it; when the ministry here have so many other things to attend to. It is amazing what a sight the people have got in this respect throughout all Europe on a sudden, and I believe it will spread thro' the whole world. The Spirit of Antichrist has spread among the protestant Churches as well as that of Rome; and every thing that opposes Christ must be brought down before his kingdom is set up. — Mr. Law, in his address to the Clergy of speaks excellently upon this point. He says "Earthly pride among (Protes= tants) will creep up to the same height, and do the same things, which they exclaim against in Popes, Cardinals, and Jesuists. All Churches, both papish and protestant, must confess this truth, — that our Salvation is in the life of Jesus Christ in us. Every thing besides this, or that does not lead to it, is but mere Babal in all Sects and divisions of Christians, living to themselves, under a seeming holiness of Christian strife and conten= tion. A religion of worldly glory and prosperity carried on under the Gospel State, has more of a diabolical nature in it, than that of the Jewish Pha= risies. It is the highest and last working of the mystery of iniquity. All Churches must die to their own will, [illegible] and own advancement, & seek no reforming power, but from the Spirit of God, which converted sin= ners, Jews and heathens into a holy Church which knew they were of God, by that Spirit which he had given them, and which worked in them. In these last ages of Christianity, many reformations have taken place; but alas! they have been in all their variety little better than so many lesser Babels come out of Babylon the great. The wisdom of this world, with its worldly spirit, over= came the Church, and carried it into captivity. This wisdom was the great evil root, at which the reforming axe should have been laid, and must be laid, before the Church can be again that virgin spouse of Christ which it was in the beginning." — All people are becoming politicians now, and its amazing how they speak out here against Government. They murmer on many accounts, dearness of provi= sions, and increasing taxes, in order to carry on the war: we have lost so ma= ny thousands of brave men, besides ships, and much of our money thrown away to no purpose. when the people feel they will speak &c. a famine is dreaded over all Europe. The people in business complain of want of employ or slackness in trade. The lower class were amazingly distressed during the long winter, and are still, tho' the collections made in every parish for them were very great, amounting in all I suppose to hundreds of thousands. Many are crying out for peace; others for pursuing the war. I have scarcely read of a time when the people were more divided in their judgment, both in Church and State. ~~they are~~ This seems to me to be the punishment of God; for when he gives them up, they are divided in their councils and measures and therefore they become a prey to their enemies. I think this is the case very much with the Methodists, ~~and I hope they will go on~~ at present. I hear pretty good acct-

from Ireland, concerning the Meth^s, and I hope they will go on in simplicity and godly sincerity, and pursue the same plan as at the beginning. We are at war here still, and like to be so. A few, thro' subtility, deceive the people, and make them subservient to their measures. It is said there are three or four of the principle men to come up here shortly, to consult matters about this law suit, and whether they will leave the chapel to the Trustees or not; for, as there is an arrear of near 700 £ rent to be paid shortly for the houses, they will be unwilling to pay it, tho' they were the cause, underhand, of entering into the law.

These disputes among us hurt religion much here and every where, even among other denominations: because the Infidels make a handle of all disputes of professors. There are dangerous books publishing against Christianity and one I heard of the other day brought from France, which is printing here, to prove that there is no God. However dreadful these things be; yet Infidelity is the instrument at present to sweep away that refuge of lyes in the popish church, and then when that old rotten fabrick is totally gone, a door will be opened for the spreading of the Gospel. Truth will gradually make its way; but the popish persecution opposed it, as men were not permitted to think for them selves, nay were often burnt or put to death. ———

If your Hus^d is led, of his own accord, to go to America, perhaps you may look upon it as the leading of Providence, and you are to stand still not being too anxious either ways, and striving to study what is the will of the Lord in this. I have no particular light about it. To be sure, as affairs are in such a situation in Ireland, it is very natural to wish to get away to a place of more safty. I think it were well if T-- was gone, for he will be in danger of being pressed either here or in Ireland. If you go, I fear I shall have none in Ireland to write to me, for they grieve my spirit very much. I can make allowances, yet I know the custom of many of the Irish: they often complain of want of time; yet they spend many minutes every day, in talking uselessly or doing nothing; whereas if they learned a method of buying up the time, there might be much more done in life than there generally is. I feel greatly for Bro^r M - if you all go. He can depend little upon J. B.. I am inclined to think them bad people you speak of will rob (or murder J. B. His money will do little good to himself or others. O that all would learn to lay up treasure above! As there is no probability that we shall meet in the body; let us strive to cast our anchor within the vail, and hope that we shall meet on a better shore. There is another Quaker has published a pamplet the other day, in which he speaks much against the sins of this nation, and all the Sects, even against his own; because of conformity to the world &c: He as well as others, approves of Bro^s - It does not require any extraordinary revelation to see that judgments are abroad in the earth, and that the cause is sin in general, and the unfaithfulness of professors in particular. I have not time to give you a more particular account of the two men who went to France, and of God's dealings with them. They use phrases like the Quakers, or rather mystics, which I do not understand; but much of what they say I approve of; I believe there is something in all these things, but we must be on our guard, not to be too credulous. Farewell

J. C.

It does not require much Sagacity or a Spirit of prophecy to see that distresses are coming on the Nations, and that the true cause is — men have forgotten GOD, and trampled on his law. All are in part guilty, tho' some no doubt, are more so than others: and each are apt to look abroad, and lay the fault at other's door. It is clear that judgment is begun at the house of God here (The Methodists,) But others will suffer by and by; for tho' our disputes and divisions are a proof that we have not been faithful to the light and grace given; yet as a Body I trust the Methodists may still vie with any other denomination in these kingdoms for sincerity and uprightness. It appears to me that more and more divisions will take place; for in a large Body, it can not be expected that men will agree in judgment, or long continue united, especially when each looks upon himself as equal to another: and there is no general Head to whom they will all submit. Human Nature is still the same. There must be a new world, ~~before the Church will be in~~ or as it were a new Creation, and one Universal Head before the Church will be in its glory, and men live in harmony and love. May God hasten this kingdom, or State of things! — I hear there are already three divisions or Connections in America among Methodists. Hammet has formed one of these at Charleston, has got seven or eight preachers to join him, and is building Churches. One O Kelly has formed another Connection in Virginea. And Asbury is at the head of the greater Body. — Here we are expecting dreadful work at next Conference. It is thought by some that two Connections will be formed; for both the Societies and the preachers are divided. They are publishing new things every day. I saw a pretty large pamphlet last week printed by Trustees at Manchester, containing their own Sentiments and resolutions and the Letters of many others of various Societies thro' the kingdom. These stand up for old Methodism, do not want the Sac^ts^ — from the preachers, but to keep a connection with the Church as M^r^ W— did and advised. A part of the preachers are inclined this way. The other party use strong arguments, and plead liberty of conscience. They say they will not force it upon any; but think they can not deny those who request it; and they will let others do as they please. There is much plausibility in all this; but I fear many of them have lost their simplicity. I have no desire to go to Conference; it will be very disagreeable to hear men tearing each other: but some of those who are for the old way, say I must go if I am alive. It is probable, indeed, I may be removed from this vale of sorrows before then, and not see the evil day. I see by these letters just published, that there are many of the people very sensible, and can write well. They have seen the conduct of some of their Teachers, and what they are aspiring after. The giving the Sac^t^ is a little thing in itself: but it is easy to see the pride of some in other things, and how soon they forget themselves. Pride will bring a man low, and so it will a people or a Nation too. — I am glad the men with you are so far kept; and that you will be preserved from this evil a little longer. —

I do not hear any thing very particular lately about those men from whom I sent you the extracts. Some of our people I hear went to Brothers but he is not fond of entering into conversation but refers them to his book — I am told he is a decent grave looking man. There may be much truth in what he says; but sometimes the Devil tells truth, and can inform of things in which he may have a great hand. Now war is a great part of his work. —

Altho' I have wrote to Sister S-- I have heard nothing from her yet.
after all, perhaps it is as well for her and her family to be in America as in
those dreadful scenes with you: but if She has got away to a better world,
it is eternal gain. Oh! may we be all found watching, and ready for the
call! — The effects of this war are felt every where. Provisions here are
so high, and like to be scarce too, that some ~~think~~ as if there will be a famine thro'
Europe. We shall certainly get a Scourge one way or other: yet where
can we fly from the presense or the hand of God! Rather let us endeavour ~~stand~~
stand still, and see his Salvation. He is Still the same as in the days of
Daniel. He can stop the mouths of lions, or hinder the flame to burn. It is
eaqually easy with him to deliver with few as many. I know not what advice
to give M-- His situation is deplorable indeed: but I still trust the God of
Jacob will be his refuge. He has his way in the whirlwind, and directs
the Storm. He can Still the raging of the sea, and stop the madness of the
people. The fierceness of man shall turn to his praise! Our extremity
is God's oppertunity. He gives us to see and to feel the necessity of hang-
ing on him alone for help. Oh! may we never forget this! In a Book
which I have been lately reading, the following passage struck me.
"Temptations render our State a more improving State of Discipline,
than it would be otherwise; as they give occation for a more attentive
exercise of the virtuous principle, which confirms and Strengthens it
more, than an easier or less attentive exercise of it could. -- Temtations,
I say, as such and of every kind and degree, as it calls forth some virtuous
efforts, additional to what would otherwise have been wanting, cannot but
be an additional discipline and improvement of virtue, as well as proba-
tion of it in the other senses of that word." That is a comforting word — My
grace is sufficient for thee: — and — as thy day is, so shall thy strength
be". — Indeed every day gives proofs that the most experienced Chris-
tian shall have trials as he goes on, in proportion to his advancement,
and ~~the~~ he shall find himself as weak, and in as great need of help, as when he
first set out. But still I think our own experience will help us much,
when we look back, & think what God hath already done for us. —
A very dear friend of mine died two days ago, and left a small family six chil-
dren the eldest about ten years old. His name was Love: universally beloved.
How uncertain are all things here! — I can only Sympathize with you
all, and endeavour to remember you in my feeble addresses to a Throne of
grace. May you and I stand firm and unshaken amidst the convulsions
of Nations, and of Nature too! Amen. — Yours J. C.

London April 1st 1795

My dear Sister

Yesterday I recd yours, which affected me very much. Indeed
I had been in great anxity about you all since your former acct.: and from what
I read in the papers often about that country. The name of the Lord is a Strong
Tower, and they who are under his protection are safe. I always endeavour in my
feeble way to recommend you to him; and I have still hopes he will some way bring
you thro'. It looks as if my dream was now fulfilling (which I formerly mentioned)
concerning the fall of the house in Lisreagh; but I remember that you were all
found safe, tho' the house fell when ~~it~~ we came to examine it. If we all meet at last in
the haven of rest, we shall not then mind the storms we have passed thro',

My dear sister Jan: 17th 1795

I rec^d yours of the 5th inst: in due time. We are brought thro' the mercies of a long-suffering Father, to the beginning of another year. O that we may now live to some good purpose, and devote the rest of our moments to Him, who hath spared us! When we take a retrospective view of the years that ~~have~~ are now rolled down the stream of time, we may say that goodness and mercy hath followed us all our days. Well: — to those who can look forward with any confidence to a glorious immortality; it is a pleasing thought that after a few more struggles, they shall have done with a disordered world, and enter upon a new and more permanent state of things, where they shall feel no pain, sorrow, nor crying. O Glorious hope of immortality! Yes we shall exist for ever: and I trust, it will be a happy existance. And what are all our sufferings here, if God shall count us meet with that enraptured host to appear, and worship at his feet" — "For the joy that is set before us, let us bear a momentary pain:" —

On the day after Christ^s: It was frost, and snowing and very slippery as I was walking fast to the West end of the Town to preach I fell on my back on the stones and was hurt; two men lifted me up, I walked a piece till I got a coach and went on and preached. It continued sore and I was very stiff for more than a fortnight: but I was still forced to go out, as we have more to do at that season than any part of the year having to preach and admin^r the Sac^t at 5 o'clock in the morning. On the 4th when I was preaching at West street, it snowed and was so thick and dark, that we could not see to read at noon day. That was a day of labour to me, as we had our Covenant in the evening. As D^r C— was not in town, we got a neighbouring Clergyman to assist us; so we were three. Some of the Laymen would have joined us at the Table; but I did not ask them, because many of the people would be offended. They administer the Sac^t now thro' many parts of the kingdom, and are dividing the people or causing them to tear one another. They are at least some of them going out of their senses; or God hath given them up to blindness and hardness of heart, so that the ~~[illegible]~~ are tearing each other, and publishing against one another every week. The Lord hath a controversy with the earth, and the Inhabitants thereof, and his judgments are begun at the house of God (with us) but more dreadful calamities are at hand. Nothing of this need seem strange, it only serves to confirm the Scriptures, if men w^d only look calmly into it. But I fear Infidelity increases every where; and our disputes will serve to harden many, who were looking out for our fall and are ready to say: "aha! so we thought it w^d be when Mr W— was gone." — This has been a distressing season, provisions of all kinds exceeding high, the coal is more than one third higher than when I came here, Many of the poor, are perishing for cold and hunger. The very poor here are far worse than with you, tho' much is done by collections: but when such weather as this comes, and they can get no employ, their situation you cannot conceive; for they always live as it were by the day, and lay up nothing. Even in summer time I often wondered how they could exist, as I saw some of them scraping among heaps of ashes and dirt for an old nail or bit of iron, or chips; and they could not gather a half penny in a month yet there is more given away here for the poor and in charitable uses &c &c —

than in almost all the rest of the world. I have lately read Mr. Locke
Education. I wish I had seen it in the early part of my life. I agree
with him in most things &c. The French are still going on &c.
into Holland &c. — It was said yesterday, we are going to call home our
Troops. I wish it had been done long ago. — A Fast day is appointed
for the 13th of Feb: — If we cease from sin it is the best fast. —

Farewell. Cleave to God, and fear nothing. —

J. C.

Feb: 10th 1795

My dear Sister

I have rec.d and just read over your letter; and begin immediately to make some reply, for there is not a moment to be lost now for it may be said now indeed that "dangers stand thick thro' all the ground" &c. Myself and whole family are ill &c. — the people are dying here in such numbers since Christ.s as has not been known since the time of the plague. The Lord is about to sweep the earth as with a besom of destruction. The calamities of this winter felt here and in other places cannot be described &c. The frost was severer than is remembered, &c &c. I struggled thro' Jan.y pretty well as, in clear frost I am best when I can get out to walk fast: but of late I am quite overcome, partly with the rain and a heavy snow &c. — The misery of the poor here is beyond all that you can imagine, tho' thousands of pounds have been given towards their relief. Coals could not be got from the ships as the river was frozen; but such as could be obtained cost five or six guineas a caldron. We were distressed for water too as the pipes were frozen. I might go on and fill my paper with an acc.t of distresses here and elsewhere; but these are only the beginning of sorrows. The calamities you discribe are dreadful indeed. The lying out in the frosty nights is beyond what I could imagine. But none knows what they may be called to, or what they can bear when called to it. Well: — We know there is but one way of safety; and a sure place of refuge. O may we be enabled to make the strong arm our refuge, and shelter ourselves under the wings of Jehovah, untill the indignation be overpast! see Isaiah 26. 20. 21. A man of my acquaintance heard a young woman in the County of Norfolk last year preach from these words: he says he never heard so great a sermon. These Nations have had repeated warnings, and "gracious day of visitation. Some have escaped well away; others are left awhile in the furnace: and others are hardened. It seems to me that Infidelity will prevail for a time, and outward Court worshipers will suffer severely; because their luke warm conduct has contributed to harden others. In this respect each of us must smite upon his breast and say — "God be merciful to me a sinner!" Yet we know the Truth will prevail at last; for God will carry on his own work, let men and devils rage ever so much against it. It is true, there are thousands of things to us mysterious: clouds and darkness rest upon them. That sin should be permitted for six ~~millions~~ thousand ~~of years~~ years, is to us a paradox: but what are six thousand or six millions of years to the day of Eternity! The Souls of the Martyrs are represented as under the altar, crying — "how long!" &c — The time may seem long to us; but, comparatively, it is but a moment. May we endure for the moment, and hope that all things shall work together for our good in the end.

wherein they were called. The prophets of old were raised up occasionally to reprove both the priests and the people, for their degeneracy; and as very few of the prophets were priests, they did not exercise that office, even after they were sent as prophets: and I do not ~~always~~ find that they were always prophecying; but only when God gave them a particular message. Tho' this may not hold good in Gospel times, yet I think it is worthy of remark. — These preachers have so far prevailed as to get leave last Conference to admin.r the Sac.t in about 50 Circuits this year, and their design is to get it done by degrees thro' all places. This has caused much division among the people, some wishing for it, and some against it. The war has broke out violently at Bristol just a day or two after the Conference. Mr M--- insisting upon his right to admin.r and the Trustees of two old Chapels refused to let him into them. Then he got those of another new Chapel to join him, and carried the greater part of the congregation with him. Three other preachers (of whom Mr Benson is the Assistant) are on the other side. A meeting was held and M== got the greater part of the preachers then present to join him and condemn the others. Circular letters have been sent by both parties, and others are answering them. The Trustees also and several principle people are taking the matter into consideration as they think it of the most dangerous tendency. It is thought there will be two kinds of Methodists: the one called the Church Methodists, (who wish to adhere to the old plan) the other the Dissenting Meth.s If you look into that paper I sent last year called Modern Babel; you see it is exactly fulfilling at this time. Perhaps you do not understand it all, but this you may see, that the old Plan is tearing to pieces, and each party says he is for the old plan, so that the world may ask what is the old plan? and none can rightly inform them, for one says one thing, and one another. B---n (who is one of the high fliers for Sacra= to) wrote a book two years ago, to prove that we were all Dissenters already, and Mr Wesley too. I wrote a few short remarks at that time for my own use: but of late I am enlarging them to make a pamphlet. I am not sure whether I will print it; but I think fit to leave some of my thoughts behind me for posterity. There is a good deal of his book to which I agree: in other things I differ in judgment. He is a great man for fluency of ~~speech~~ words; Si He is just such another, among the Meth.s, as Arch Deacon C--d was among the Clergy at Cavan. Perhaps C-- is as good in the sight of God, considering the light he had. He certainly had zeal, tho not according to knowlidge. — I am laid up with a cold whilst I am writing this; and will probably have hard struggling thro' this winter now, as I am seized so early. —

As to my situation among the preachers and people here I am rather easier than I was these two years past. The principle and most discerning people are my friends; and as to the simple ones, I never enter into conversation with them about these things, an so we do tolarable well together. For some time past all parties have avoided disputes, tho' each retains their own sentiments, and are greatly divided. It is plain that divisions and subdivisions will take place more and more, but he that keepeth close to the Head will be brought thro' and saved in the end. It is in vain, I see, to reason about our children, what will become of them in these dangerous times. Our best way is to pray for them, as well as for ourselves: and when we remember what God did for us, it should encourage us to trust him still, and to trust our children with

him. He is the same as ever, and will uphold them that cast their care upon him. The greatest difficulty I find is what advice to give my children respecting what professing people to join: dangers are on all hands &c. &c. And if we tell our Children these things, it tends to make them Infidels to which they are too prone already by nature. Oh! what a miserable picture does the world, and even the religious world exhibit at this day! ——— I need not take up time in relating the affairs of the public and the state of the war: in a word: we are growing worse every day. Most of our brave men have been cut to pieces; and immense sums of money expended to no purpose &c. We live in a world, wherein we can scarcely trust any body: yet we must beware at the same time of judging rashly; but I would have religious people assert their rights, as others are doing in the state; and not let themselves be too much imposed on. Every person should now think for himself, and stand somewhat upon his guard; and oppose innovations either in Church or state. Some Preachers in England are acting with as much intrigue and cunning as any court are doing in their state affairs.

Novr. 10th Tho' I was confined most of last week, yet I struggled to West=Street yesterday, which is three miles or more from me. I had doubts in my mind for some days whether I would go at all; but as I had not preached there for three months, I thought I would try and give them as it were my last charge, as Moses and Joshua did shortly before their death. I chose Deut: 4. 9. to speak from, which opens a very large field, as it takes in every thing, our duty to ourselves, to God, to our neighbour, and to our posterity. It takes in our duty as individuals, and as a people, our outward conduct and also walking inwardly with GOD; and that both on account of the heathen world, or ungodly: on account of our Connections, our household and our families. I could but only touch on each of these, tho' I believe I spoke for an hour. I had never before spoke in public concerning the Education of Children, as I am still more & more puzzled about it. We have a Charity School there; for which they have Sermons preached twice a year. Dr. C—had lately preached for them, and others from time to time. They never asked me. But, (strange to tell) after sermon, one of the Stewards came up to me, and desired me to print the sermon for the use of posterity. I did not promise, but perhaps I may, if I get a little strength to write it. I cannot write now as I could twenty years ago: and indeed considering how my poor head has been worn for twelve years past, it is a wonder how I can write any. But what will surprize you still more, is, that this very man is one of the two, who seven years ago brought a charge against me and Mr. D— r for our want of abilities! It is not that I can speak any better than I could then; only to shew what God can do! Farewell in Christ! Our love to all:— J. C

Novr. 12th 1794

him to a distant record in their journals where their names had been intered as persons who should join their society.

While they were here, they had many great discoveries made to them of the Scripture-Prophecies, and of important events depending; — but at present they are not at liberty to mention them fully, as ~~they~~ the vail is not yet to be removed: — but before the close of the present Century many great revolutions would be in Europe and other parts of the Globe. Some of which here follow. That the Turkish Empire will be destroyed by the instrumentality of a boy, then about eleven years of age, residing at Rome. This boy is conscious of his important distiny, and under the immediate and daily instructions of Spiritual and angelic agents. They say this boy is as clearly and distinctly revealed in one of Isaiah's predictions as Cyrus was, altho' his name is not mentioned. That the Superstition of Mahamet is to be annihilated by a general conversion to Christianity and the destruction of many of its votaries. That the downfall of the Papacy is at hand, and that Rome will be involved in distruction. That the present Pope will not live long. At his death, there will be two competitors for the papal Chair; neither of whom thro' the cabals in the conclave, will Succeed; but a third will arise, and be elected, and this will ~~and~~ close the Scene of papal Tyrany and Authority. That the Jews will be converted to Christianity, and restored to Palestine, and their country become the glory of all lands.

That there will be no Counter Revolution in France, But that Government will be improved to a greater degree of purity and perfection.

That England will have a share of calamity; but it will emerge from its trial, and become as glorious if not more so, than France.

That Italy in general will become a scene of distress and horror

That Spain will be restored to Liberty; in that country the Spirit of those Revolutions is already at work, and the effects will soon appear.

That there are seventy or more associates under like impressions in different parts of Europe, who know they shall be instrumental in these events. That they know the names and places of abode of many of those designed for these purposes, who are yet ignorent of any such impressions.

That the information they derive from the Angels is in figures or characters, that are reduced to words and sentances by one of the Associates. That the medium is not unlike the Urim and Thummim, by which Moses and Aron were informed of the divine will. That the distant associates correspond regularly with each other by numbers or figures, a key to which they are all possessed of. That they are ordered not to interfere with any Sect of religion, or any System of policy, but to wait in their various situations for the period of their more public appearance.

That they ground all their confidence in the approaching events on the books of the old and new Testaments. Many of the prophecies supposed to have been fulfilled already, are now depending on that which respects the boy at Rome. ——

Since I wrote the foregoing I have read of a vision that a Clergyman had in August last. &c &c A woman of my acquaintance says another woman ~~she~~ told her she had one concerning our thing &c &c. —

Tho' I mention or relate ~~other~~ these things as what I hear; yet I would not lay any stress upon them. The great Enemy, I believe, is very busy at this time, going about and deceiving many: and it is very likely he knows much of those actions that he himself will be engaged in; particularly in causing strife and divisions, and wars among the human race: he knows his time is short. Yet at the same time, there may be warnings from God; and whether what we hear be true or false, they ought to drive us the closer to God, that he may protect us from evil men, as well as deliver us from the snares of Satan. By all I hear and see, I am more and more convinced of the truths of the Bible: and what is there revealed is fulfilling, and will be fulfilled every tittle: but the end is not yet. Many great Events have happened even in our time, which our forefathers could not have conceived; and our children will see still stranger things than these. It is no difficult thing now to be a prophet: nay almost every person is prophesying. All see plainly now that popery is almost at an end: yet darkness and ignorance will be gradually removing, and very slowly, in some countries. You will say that the papists are gaining ground in Ireland: yet tho' they are, the world at large will get more common Sense. The old people and old prejudices will be dying away. But I see Infidelity is likely to increase; and the bad practices of the teachers of religion serve to increase the Infidelity of the sensible part of mankind. they conclude that religion is all a mere farce or a trick to keep the vulgar in awe; and they are apt to look at the conduct of some individuals, especially teachers, and then condemn others with them.

Tho' I do not wish to burden your mind about Methodist affairs (as you are burthened enough already) yet I cannot avoid saying something about our present affairs. There never was such a shaking and convulsion in the Methodist Body as at present. Perhaps you do not hear much of it in your country, and it is so best. Some may know something, but not all, or only one side, they keep it from the people; because it would do them no good, and they wd. be incapable of judging for themselves. — The preachers are now almost split, and some of them tearing one another in printed Letters. The world at large are making remarks, and I suppose the Calvinists world are laughing; tho' I believe the truly pious of every denomination are shocked because religion in general will suffer thro' our divisions. I can scarcely give you a just view of the cause of disputes: but shall mention a few things. Many of the preachers have long been itching to administer the Sact.– and to draw the people gradually from the old principles of Methodism, and from any connection with the Church: using the old cry that the Clergy are wicked &c.; and they claim the liberty of Conscience. But the reasons for doing this were much stronger forty years ago than now, for light is spreading very much in the Church, and many Ministers are now truly pious. This was the end of God in raising up the Methodists preachers (as Mr Wesley thought 50 years ago) to provoke the regular Clergy to jealousy, and to spread scriptural holiness thro all parties, Dissenters as well as the Church people. But now many of them begin to get a high notion of themselves, and say it is beneath them to be a kind of underlings to these state hirelings. Now, tho' respect should be paid to the preachers, and to all that are sent of God in any capacity; yet as God seemed to have raised them up in an extraordinary manner; it seems to me they should abide in that

calling

But vain were their efforts to bring her to life;
Then rose a new contest and wonderful strife;
To bury her body, or hide her old bones,
To crumble to ashes, or turn them to stones.
They canvass'd this matter, and strove about words,
'Till all call'd for battle, and brandish'd their swords.
How matters were settled, indeed I can't say;
Nor can the old body be found to this Day.
'Tis true, a strange story begins to revive,
That this fruitful Mother is surely alive:
But where she inhabits they're wise that can tell;
For some say 'tis heaven, and others 'tis hell.
The Judge call'd an Inquest most formal of late,
And summon'd a Jury to hear the Debate:
The Question was started, and many things said,
To know if this Mother was living or dead?
To see if her body was not to be found,
In air, or in water, or under the ground?
This Question (tho' simple without any quibble)
To some seem'd as doubtful as leaves of the Sibyll.
They reason'd, and reason'd, and puzzled their brain;
And made the thing darker, which God had made plain,
At length said a Quibbler, with shrewdest grimace,
Composing his muscles, and smoothing his face:
"I'll answer the Question, which you, sir, propound
She's nowhere, yet everywhere now to be found."
This filled some with laughter, and others look'd queer;
Some strove to be silent, yet others would sneer.
In such a Dilemma the Jury stood mute,
Nor have they yet settled this puzzling Dispute.
Ye Wits of Great-Britain, who see with both eyes,
Ye deep-thinking Gnosticks, ye learned and wise;
Pray solve this strange riddle, or cut the hard knot:
Dismiss the poor Jury: they're still on the spot.—

Tho' I send you the following Extract, I do not lay any stress upon it, no more than upon the former one I sent you some time ago. I send them rather as pieces of curiosity, out of many things which have been published here for a few years past. Yet I think there is some truth in them all.

Extract from Mr B— s predictions lately published

In Jany 1789 Mr B.— had serious impressions on his mind, and being doubtful what might be the result of them, as he was one day engaged in business, he suddenly heard a voice saying to him —— "Go to Avignon in France." — His mind was greatly impressed with this command and he tried to evade its force, but could not, and fell in an agony on the floor, where he lay about half an hour; he then arose, and went into the parlour, and endeavoured to compose himself. Instantly he heard another voice saying to him — "write out thy accounts and provide thyself with money." — He did so with great energy, so that he was soon ready. Just as he was about to depart, his friend Mr W— called on him to enquire if he had any thing on his mind relative to a journey to Avignon in France. Mr B— said he was going that day. Mr W replied, that he was not prepared to go that day, but would follow him. He did and came up with him at Dover, as he was detained by the winds. They then set sail for Calais, where they arrived in two hours, and proceeded to Paris. When at Paris they went to a person's house whom Mr B. knew, who recd them kindly, and entertained them; their money now being expended. He also supplied them with money for the rest of their journey; and told them moreover that he had laid by this money for his own journey to Avignon, but was now convinced it was they and not him that were called thither. They arrived at Avignon in about three weeks. They were still ignorent of the object of their journey; and ignorent of the language of the people. But providentially they ~~were that ignorant~~ met an Englishman with whom Mr B— had a slight acquaintance. He accosted them, and told them they were expected there by seven Associates who had met at Avignon thirteen years ago, in consequence of impressions or commands similer to those of Messrs B. and W. These seven were of different nations, one Russian, one Prussian, one Pole, two French, and two Italians from Rome. This Englishman ~~introduced~~ introduced them and was their Interpreter. They were received, and generously supplied with cloaths and money. Here they continued seven months. During this period they had many extraordinary communications made to them, not only from the records of the Society (which are a daily Journal) but also, thro' the medium of Angels, with whom they assert they personally conversed. They met regularly every evening at seven, and in a familier manner commemorated the death of Christ, by eating bread and drinking wine. They conversed on the Subject of their future destany. The oldest member always presides at the meetings. They were often sensible of the presence of Angels by various sounds, as well as by their appearances. Mr B— was told by these associates, that he and Mr W— had been expected for some time, and as a proof of that, they referred

There is a meeting here this week between our Trustees and Trustees from other parts, to draw up an address to the Conference, to remonstrate against some things they have heard of some of the Preachers altering the old plan as left by Mr Wesley: of ordaining themselves all now, and appointing seven or at Bishops, and to appoint them Districts or Dioceses thro' which they are to travel as Mr Wesley used to do. It appears the body will be torn to pieces, and affairs here are not at all settled respecting the Law suit. Some of them says they don't want us, and want to remove Mr D--- and me. I am not uneasy; I have only a few days to live. May I be able to spend them well! Give my love to all friends. — Farewell! — J. C.

My dear sister

I address this letter to you as I know not in what state my poor Bro^r may be when it arrives. The acc^t you give of him, and of other things affected me very much. However we must endeavour to bear up as well as we can, and use all the reason and abilities that God puts in our power. The times are alarming indeed, and every one will have enough to engage their mind and attention. Since I wrote wrote to you last I have gone thro' what no tongue can tell. My wife grew worse and worse, and I had wholly given her up. Nature was quite exhausted, and sometimes I knew not whether she breathed. My struggling to keep up, and pay her some attention, and the distress of my mind, wrought me [illegible] I became as ill, or worse than she. — My cough was violent, and the spasms in my breast, so that I got no rest at night, and I am just a shadow having only the bones covered with skin. My wife is recovering; but much worn. It is next to a miracle that she is recovering. I had a dream some part of the time, somewhat similar to what is recorded 2 Kings. 6. 16. 17. — and Job. 1. 11. — The scene, I think was laid in a little garden that was formerly opposite to our door at L-- A man who was my enemy with his troops stood opposite to me, ready to attack me; but with me there was a more numerous body with their guns or cannon, presented opposite to him and his, this kept him at bay, or prevented his advancing to attack me. When he saw it was in vain to attack, he seemed to give it up; but I thought he seemed to ask leave to touch myself a little, and accordingly came over & touched me lightly but felt no harm, and then awaked. He has indeed been permitted to attack myself, tho' I am still in the land of the living. I only mention this little thing, as it occurred to me. I felt much at the acc^t you give of those desperate people in your neighbourhood; yet hitherto God has appeared on your side, and while he is so neither men nor devils can harm you: perhaps my dream relates as much to you as to myself; for I believe it was just at that time I dreamed it. Surely none have greater reason to bless and praise our gracious deliver more than we all have. Notwithstanding our unworthiness and unfaithfulness, he has hitherto wrought out a wonderful deliverance for us. And this should encourage us to look to him in future. None can deliver like him. It is true, we may expect nothing but tribulation in this world, and hitherto we have got a pretty large share of it; yet the time is short; a few more conflicts, and we shall gain the victory, and enter into rest. It is our duty to use our reason and all the precaution we can for self preservation; at the same time that we look unto the strong Tower for help. And so also in sickness I think it our bounden duty to use means, at the same time depending on the great Physician.

Tell bro.r R— that his own health is the first ~~thing~~ object he has now to attend to, for the sake of his family: therefore tho' his temporal concerns are in a bad way, it is of more consequence to his children that his life should be spared, than, if they had thousands. It is a very distressing case indeed; but we must allow that God doth not willingly afflict; but chastens us for our profit, and to make us sit loose to earthly things. Let him strive to keep his mind as calm as he can, tho' things do go contrary to his mind, and he sees all things around him in a distressing situation. Let neither him nor D— — puzzle themselves about the conduct of some. There is nothing new in all that we have seen or heard. We know that religion is always the same in its own nature, let the professors of it, and even the preachers of it, act as they will. However we must be a little on our guard lest we should be hurt by the one or the other. As to the doctrine I aluded to, of the wicked being delivered in some future ages, it is best not to spend our time or thoughts about it. Our business is to press after holiness in this life, and this is the safest way, even supposing that doctrine to be true. The doctrines of the Methodists are certainly the best and safest at any rate; but many Methodists as well people as preachers have acted wrong, yet still religion is the same. I fear you will have troubles before long; and we are in danger here also; as many persons are dissatisfied, and some of them been lately taken up and are confined in the Tower; Our troops have been lately worsted in Flanders, and many of our brave men killed.— Let me hear from you soon; and how matters are in every respect. Farewell! To the God of all grace I commend you all. O that we may keep close to him, and be sheltered under his wings in this and every future storm! Amen!

J. C.

On the late Subdivisions in the Church of ~~Endland~~ England.

There liv'd once in England a fruitful old Mother
Whose Offspring soon quarrel'd and tore one another:
To part of her Substance they each laid a claim
And then of her cloathing they stripp'd the poor Dame.
One snatch'd her fine Tippet, another her gown,
And one to her Mantle laid claim as his own:
One had her white Lutestring, another her cowl,
Which when he put on, he look'd much like an owl.
Her body made naked, expos'd now to shame,
Caus'd Strangers to wonder, and some to exclaim:
"Unnatural treatment! 'tis shocking: 'tis base
And brings to our nation the foulest disgrace."
The mother was frighted, and then in sad plight,
Expiring with anguish, her spirit took flight.
This caused some to shudder, to see her lie dead:
And some greatly labour'd to lift up her head:

As to my son, he seems to be sensible and sharp, but of strong passions, is as forward in some respects as some boys of twice his age. What he will turn to I know, not; but probabably I shall not live to see much of him any way; and must leave him and them all to Him, who alone can subdue the stubborn will, and change the rebellious heart. I have sometimes thought that the children of religious parents are permitted to shew the evil propensity more than others, partly for the exercise of the parents minds, as well as to confirm them in the doctrine of original Sin. At other times I have thought that it proceeded from too much severity shewed towards them, which served to harden them more. I have not, I think, used great severity towards mine; but when I do correct them I make them feel it. I think it best ~~but~~ to do it seldom, and then to let them feel, so as to remember, and to do it always when we promise it; for when it is done often or lightly or often threatning but not performing, they do not regard it; However this boy has got more beating, for his time; than all the rest put together; and yet he regards it little. One observation I have made thro' life, that among all sorts of people, where there is much sense and strong natural parts, there is also generally high passions, and a rebellious will. And so on the contrary, where the passions are weak &c, the understanding is in proportion. I don't know whether this is true in all cases; but it is ~~my~~ private thought of my own. Grace, undoubtedly, makes an alteration in all; but you have heard it sometimes said, that such and such a person required a great deal more grace than others, to keep them down. If we consider this, perhaps we may be ready to make more allowance for some persons than otherwise we would. And indeed it is very difficult to tell what degree of grace any person has got. He alone who is a searcher of the heart, and a trier of the the reins, and who knows all things from the beginning; who knows what grace he has given, and what there has been to counteract it both from Satan and our own constitution, &c &c, can solve this question: and therefore it is well that we shall be judged by him at the great Day. Whatever we have recd we must all use these words— Oh! to grace how great a debtor! &c—

When we have done the best we can for our children, and prayed for them, we must leave them in the hands of Him that gave them, whose bowels of compassion yearn over them as he did over us. Perhaps we sometimes give ourselves more anxity about them than we need, and GOD lets us see that without Him we can do nothing in this respect, as well as others. The work of Salvation indeed, of changing our tempers &c &c, is a great work, it is a work of Omnipotence alone; and because it is thus great, and so few shew a change of their tempers, at least wholly till near death; therefore some deny that it is not to be done till the very article of death. But we are not to limit God, as if he could not, or would not do it till then. Others suppose there is a purgatory after death; nay men have imagined various kinds of Purgatories in different ages. In my late sermon on April 13th I took notice of these different kinds of purgatories, which I ridiculed. I then said something strong about the unquenchable fire, and quoted that word— "let him that is filthy, be filthy still."— There were three or four present who hold the opinion (much insisted on here lately) that Hell Torments ~~of~~ will have an end, and that even Devils will be finally restored, tho' they may be punished yet for many ages; One of them who has written a book upon the subject, who was then hearing; has since written me a note relative to what I said, giving me the contents of his book, and supposes I had not fully considered the matter.— I do not mean to trouble myself with him, nor have I strength now to enter into a controversy; but I have written a

letter which I mean to give to the preachers if they choose to put it into their Magazine. I know not whether they will approve of it; but I am indifferent about it. The ground I stand on is safe, namely, to exhort my hearers to press after holiness in this life; which is the safest, even if the opinion of these men were true. As who would run the risk of being punished for a thousand years; much less for a thousand ages. I had the satisfaction of the approbation of the most part of the audience, and some of them gave me thanks; so this makes my mind easy. I have mentioned these things to you briefly, not knowing whether I shall have another opportunity. Time is on the wing; and we are hastening to the confines of the grave, where, it is said, all things are forgotten. But this can only relate to the body; for I believe the spirit will then think, and remember better than ever; yea, that hereafter we shall remember all things we have passed thro'; and perhaps all our thoughts, words, and actions.— You see amidst all my exercises I do not forget you, and must now take my leave. To the God of all grace I commend you and all my dear friends. May we all meet at his right hand!—

J. C.

My dear Sister July 19th 1794

I recd. yours but delayed a little as I had nothing particular to write, having written lately to Bro. R.— His trials are very great indeed; but I trust they will some way or other work together for good. We should always strive to think that things might be worse with us, and this would help to make us resigned to the present dispensation; but when this is not done, God is obliged to lay the rod on heavier. Oh! he is merciful, yea most merciful, when most severe. My wife had another touch of the former complaint, but is a little better. I was taken very ill one night this week, in my stomach and bowels. I am so weak with the heat I am scarcely able to walk. It has been exceeding dry and hot a long time; no rain till one shower yesterday. the grass is burnt up and every thing dear, I understand it is much the same in Ireland; but there is a sign of a good harvest. Many are grumbling about this war; and the other party are striving to say they cannot help it, or know not how to obtain peace. The Government strive to keep up the spirits of the vulgar by rejoicings and publishing accounts of victories, and firing the cannon on hearing of it. But this is political, I think in order to amuse the lower class at present &c. All agree that this war is different from all others; but few see the hand of God in it, and what he is doing, and about to do in the Earth &c &c. What that man says (some months ago from whose book I have sent you the extract) about the Austrians and Prussians retreating and our Armies being defeated, seems now to be coming to pass. I did not hear of him till a few months ago. Whether he be mad or not, the world will not receive these things: and it was so even with the true prophets. Tho' I have given you this extract, I don't desire you to give much credit to it: yet you may keep it by you, to see hereafter if any thing turn out. I have been some way persuaded in my own mind from the begining that the French would not be totally conquered, but wd. establish their independency: and I think also there will be convulsions thro' the whole world, untill those words are fulfilled "The kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of Christ."— I have an Extract from an old book (Dr. Allen) concerning the future State of the Church, which confirms me in this opinion.— A paper yesterday said the French were preparing for another Invation and it was thought they intended for Ireland; but it is not likely they will escape our fleets.—

at length bring us to the havan where we w^d^ be. As to the war or what turn it will take I can not say much at present. The Lord still spares our land for a remnant's sake, for there is a praying few, and we hear of a great revival particularly in Yorkshire. But I have long thought that some great changes will take place even in this Nation tho' perhaps we may not live to see them. I believe there must be revolutions in every nation upon earth, before the kingdoms of the world can become the kingdom of Christ. —

It is very natural for you to have cares about your child, and whosoever condemns you for it have little little skill, or charity. But be not discouraged because he is not what you wish: perhaps even the anxiety you feel for him at present, and other exercises on his account are all working some way for your good, tho' you do not yet see it. Every thing that exercises our patience and other graces, or that drives us more to prayer, tho' they are grievious at present, yet may prove advantageous in the end. See Heb: 12.11. — As you observe, few can take time, or can enter into the trials or situations of others; yet a sympathizing mind is a part of the mind that was in Christ; and he still sympathizes with us in our afflictions here below. You have reason to be thankful, that you have not so many small children as your brothers or sisters. Your son tho' in one sense he is not what you wish, yet he may one day help you, if God change his nature. If S—— goes it is by all means necessary that she go with him, sink or swim. It is little better than death any way; but there is nothing but the cross before her and us all; and we must take it up whether willing or not. Give my love to her, and my prayers. I can do little more than pray for you all; and be assured neither time nor place has changed my mind; or lessened my affections for you all. There was little probability before, that we should meet in time; and if you cross the Atlantic there will be less. Well: the time is short till we meet to part no more. Amen! — — — J. C.

Mr Charles Wesley, in sailing once from Dublin to Holyhead, met with a violent storm, and was nearly shipwrecked; but after landing safe wrote the following Hymn.

All praise to the Lord
Who rules with a word
The untractable sea,
And limits its rage by his steadfast decree.

Whose providence binds,
Or releases the winds
And compels them again
At his beck to put on the invisible chain.

Even now he hath heard,
Our cry, and appeared
On the face of the deep
And commanded the tempest its distance to keep:

His piloting hand
Hath brought us to land
And no longer distress'd
We are joyful again in the havan to rest.

O that all men would raise
His tribute of praise,
His goodness declare,
And thankfully sing of his fatherly care!

With rapture approve His Dealings of love, And the wonders proclaim
Performed by the virtue of Jesus's name.

Thro' Jesus alone He delivers his own, And a token doth send
That his love shall direct us, and save to the end:
With joy we embrace The pledge of his grace, In a moment outfly
The Horrors of affliction, and ~~and~~ land in the Sky.

April 30th 1794

My dear Sister

Many of your friends go to sea, perhaps the above Hymn may be of some use to them, reminding them where to look in every Storm: I still hope and trust we shall all meet ~~there~~ safe in the Haven of rest. In a sermon I printed some time ago, I spoke chiefly of the growth in grace. It seems agreeable to the design and wisdom of God, that all things which he hath made are in a progressive state, advancing still to higher degrees of perfection, and consequently that all Intelligent or rational beings will come short of him that is infinite. Angels attained more knowledge, or a display of the Creator's wisdom, at the creation of our world and of man, than when they themselves were created: for then the Morning Stars sang together, and the sons of God shouted with joy. They still saw more, after the fall of man, and the promise of a Redeemer; and more again at his birth, and more after his resurrection, and ascension; but they have seen much more since that time; yet still they are earnestly studying the wonderful works of God, particularly this mysterious work of Redemption, and the method of restoring man. And what additional knowledge will they attain, at the great day of accounts, when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed! But it seems probable that God will after that be still making more discoveries of his wisdom &c to Angels and to happy Spirits to all Eternity; and all will excite in them shouts of joy, adoration and praise to Jehovah. That this seems reasonable, may appear from considering the nature of our intellectual faculties and of the human mind, even when we are here below. The more we know, the more we desire to know, and the more sensible we are of how little we yet know, and of what there is still to be known. The human mind is capable of greater enlargement than we generally suppose; but it is contracted and darkened by sin, and the objects of sense; which, together with the efforts of Satan, serve to keep us in a grovelling indolent posture, looking downwards, when we should look up, and press forward. I speak now of all useful knowledge, but tho' there are various kinds and degrees of this, we should make all subservient to, or the handmaid to the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ. I drop these few hints for your present consideration, lest I should have no opportunity of sending the book, or lest I should not live to print it, for I am just hovering between life and death: I now and then revive a little, and then relapse by one thing or other, particularly catching cold. My head is very poorly while I am writing; my wife lying dangerously ill of a fever.

&c &c

Here was the time to exercise faith; and yet to use all their mental and bodily powers. This hint may be of use to you, not only at the present; but at all times in a Spiritual sense. Tell N— I am glad she is learning to be more loose to the things here, even dear friends. These indeed are tender ties, but they too often keep us from a close union with our God. She has borne much, and suffered much for her relations; and this I will say to you all, that you owe her much, and should all strive as much as in your power to make the latter part of her life comfortable, and I exhort you to leave it as a dying charge to your Children to do the same when you are gone, for she took care of them in their helpless state. I do not see clearly what is best for her to do at present. However tell her from me, not to fear, but trust that God, who has hitherto provided for us all. Tell her, I firmly believe as there is a God, that he will take care of her, and will land her safe at last, where no storm shall reach her. If some of her relations, for whom she had peculiar care, will not take her advice, at their peril be it. She must make her mind easy when she has done her best. As circumstances are, and as I am sinking apace to the dust, there is no probability that we shall meet here below: but the time is short, and if we meet above all will be well. We are indeed like to be scattered on the face of the Globe.— I have no desire to move from my present place, if I am permitted to stay. What changes may come here, we know not, but some apprehend much danger. I have a small house, before the lease of it is expired, many events may take place. I have been doing something in it, for my Children, that I may have little to trouble me in my last moments. In my illness in ~~Jay~~ — a pious Clergyman from the country, whom I knew a little, called on me, and wanted me as a Curate to serve one of his Churches; but I could not think of it, even if I was well. Besides, I should offend my best friends here, if I were to leave them now. Perhaps there is some w^d be glad I would go, as they want for an excuse to admin^r the Sacrament themselves. I think therefore I shall leave my bones here. There is a large burying ground opposite to ours, where John Bunyan and many of the excellent of the last and present Century are laid.— I supposed that Bro^r A— was not growing worse, or you w^d have wrote, and my illness and other things prevented me from writing to him or you. You had best write to me oftener in the mean time, as our time is so short.— I find my affection for you all is not lessened by time nor place. You are very near my heart, and this letter has been written with abundance of heart.—

As to the state of religion in America I cannot speak precisely; but I suppose the Meth^s there are more simple as yet than the people of England. Indeed it is not an easy matter to retain simplicity, as people increase in knowledge. In America too, no doubt there is variety, some better than others and it is with us and them, as it was with the seven Churches of Asia in St John's time; some in a mixed, some in a flourishing, and others in a luke warm or dead state. We hear of a great revival in Yorkshire lately. I firmly believe God is angry with some here, and that he will scourge them by and bye, if they do not alter their mode of acting. His kingdom is not of this world; and it is not promoted by worldly maxims, or craftiness, and guile. No, No.— Matters ~~are~~ precarious here as well as with you. I am kept from anxious care concerning my children. It is in vain for me to puzzle myself about what may or may not happen. I trust God, that will in some way bring them thro as he has done me and them hitherto. I bless his name, I want for nothing at present but health.

My stated Salary would not half do; but several kind friends make it up by presents from time to time; so that I am still kept in a dependent State, and obliged to trust GOD. About ten days ago, when I slept from home, I had a dream, in which perhaps there is something-tho' I do not pay great attention to dreams. I think the Scene was at our old house in Lisreagh. A most violent wind arose, the strongest blast I ever felt. I believe I was in the old barn on the west side of the road, and striving with all my might to shut the door against the wind, which I then felt inexpressibly strong. I then looked towards the big house and saw the middle part of the roof fallen in; but there came another blast, which blew down the whole walls and all; in which you were all involved. I and some other persons ran to see what was become of you, but on removing the rubbish, you were all safe. The end of the dream gives me hope that tho' you may meet with storms, you will all be found safe at last. You may be prepared for storms of adversity in various senses; but fear not, there is one who ruleth the winds, and sitteth above the water floods: He will take care of you: Look unto Him, casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. I say unto you again: Trust him, and fear nothing. He will say to Men and Devils, and to the raging sea:— "hitherto hast thou come, but thou shalt go no further." —

I conclude, with love to all friends, and am ever the same in the closest bonds.—

J. C.

My dear sisters April 20: 1794

Tho' I have considered your affairs since my last, yet I cannot say I have clearer light as to the will of GOD. It is a very nice point at any time, in removing from one place to another, to know the will of GOD; tho' sometimes he may make it very plain. Whether you move or not, you may expect difficulties, and being in expectation of them, will be a great means to lessen them when they come. You are in some measure prepared, and your past experience will help you: both to trust GOD, and to look to him, and him only for wisdom and help. I can be of little help to you; but can truly sympathize with you all, and was deeply affected on reading your letter. It seems you cannot take the house again, or become tenants to him who has taken it, yet I think it will be impossible for you to go so soon as D. S. if he has taken a ship to sail the 1st of May. But if you all determine to go, I wish you by all means to go in one Ship, that you may help one another, and in case of accident may console each other, and jointly go often to a Throne of grace. I wd have T. by all means to go, as I think he may do better and apply to business in a foreign Country.— You must however strive to give him up to the Lord in every respect, and hope the best, for you can do no more. GOD has his way in the whirlwind, and may by some strange way bring him to himself, and may yet make him useful both to you and others. Remember Jacob's words all these things are against me— But they were all making for him, and Joseph was sent into Egypt to prepare a place, and a good reception for ~~him~~ the whole family in the day of adversity. Fear not, only believe: do the best you can, but trust GOD in all things. His promises never fail, and he will at length take up the cloud, and lead you forward thro' this wilderness the remainder of your journey. As to seeking riches either where you are or elsewhere, I trust you have been taught better: you must lay up your treasure above, where it can not be taken from you. Nor can you expect much ease or rest on this side of Jordan. No, No! we are travelling thro' Immanuel's ground to fairer worlds on high. Thank GOD for the prospect! for tho' clouds do intercept our view now and then, yet I trust our eye is single, and intention pure, and to that GOD looks, and will

most people are crying out at the effects of this war, except some who wd be accounted loyal. It was here much the same as with you, respecting the Fast day. Some had scruples about it, some put on an appearance of loyalty, and others ridiculed it. It seems to me as if the earth was in disorder, and every thing out of course, for God is angry with the Inhabitants. The religious world also is in convulsions and confusion: Men differ in their judgments more than ever both in civil and religious matters. All agree that some greater events than we have yet seen, are near at hand. The Popish power is falling fast; but Infidelity is stepping into its place. The religion of the false prophet (Mahomet) is opposed by some powerful persons in Arabia; who are raising an army and going to prove by the sword that Mahomet was a false Prophet or an Impostor. Every serious mind should look a little at these things, and look into the Bible more narrowly, that they may see Scripture fulfilling. Surely if Infidels would do this, and were candid, they might be convinced that the Bible is of God. Every tittle therein written will be fulfilled in due season. — One thing is sure, it will be well with the righteous. It is true; they are often involved in temporal calamities, and share in some degree in national punishments or judgments; yet God does in a wonderful way take care of, or bring them thro'; he is their Sun and their Shield in the cloudy day. Perhaps they do not always see it at the time; but afterwards on looking back, they see the hand of God in it. In my late illness I was revolving all the events of my life; and tho' I have been tossed much on this tempestuous sea, and have had a pretty large share of disapointments and things very grievous to ~~the~~ flesh and blood; yet I see that every thing was working together for my good. I saw that if I had had more prosperity, and things had gone more smoothly or pleasing, it wd have been worse ~~with~~ for me in another way. About 6 or seven years ago, I had a very grievous trial; two stewards having accused Dickenson and me for inability as preachers, before Mr W— and others at a meeting. I did not say much, but was offended chiefly at Mr W— and Dr C who brought me here, for sitting silent. I felt nothing against these two men, and on going away, they expressed their approbation of my spirit. The day after one who was present and was friendly to me, asked me if I thought that wd also work for my good? I said I thought it would. I was rather in heaviness for over 10 days, but during the Chris^{s} week, which just then came on, I felt so much of the presence of God, as almost overpowered me, and I could hardly speak. Since that time those two men are become my friends: one of them ~~asks~~ ~~me~~ frequently asks me to dine with him, and some months ago, the other sent me money. In my late illness several persons sent me money; some of them I do not know, and others I never saw. I mention these things to you, not only that you may rejoice on my behalf; but that it may teach and encourage you and your friends still to trust a faithful God. There is no end of his mercies. Depend upon him and fear not. Wait thou his time, so shall this night soon end in joyous day. Our family have much reason to speak well of him; but none so much as I have. Oh! why am I so cold and languid in his service! His mercy found out me, and he is daily heaping favours upon me, even in the midst of afflictions; and I am unworthy of the least of his regards. — Nothing has happened between me and the W--s since that in Octr I keep a civil distance: and I believe they will let me alone, as many of the principle people are my friends.

It is of the utmost importance that the people should have a good oppinion of their Teachers. The more therefore they talk against each other, the more Infidelity gains ground. But I said in a Letter to Mr. B—— eleven years ago "Whenever there was a falling away in the Church, I believe it always begins with the Ministers." I am still of the same opinion. The bad lives of the priests and Friars, in France, together with their Superstn &c &c which was a mere burlesque upon common sense, drove the sensible part of the Nation into Infidelity. So that they have gone from one extreme into the opposite one, and are re=establishing Paganism. Tho' there is much evil in all that has come to pass there; yet I think I see the hand of God in it, and he will bring good out of it in the end. It is like the pulling down of an old house, where there is much dirt and rubbish which must be first removed, before a foundation is laid for a new building. A week after I heard of the death of the King of France last year, I preached a Sermon which I have lately printed with two others. The Text of this is Psal. 2. 12. The prophesy in this Psalm is I think, now fulfilling. I lately met with a Book, which I had heard of last year, by a Scotch Divine of the be=ginning of this Century; entitled the Crook in the lot, from that Text Eccles: 7. 13 It is (as you may suppose) mostly Calvinistic; yet there are many ex=cellent things in it, and much Truth; and agreeable to experience, at least to mine. I see much of your situation, and feel greatly for you all. There are Crooks enough in your lot, and most of them I believe you can not help; but I firmly believe they will work together for good. As to shun the cross, it is in vain: another greater will meet us; yet I cannot say, but it is right to get out of harm's way, if we can. The Christians were directed to go to a little place called Pella, before the des=truction of Jerusalem; where they were safe: and yet God permitted them to be severely persecuted afterwards.— With respect to your going to America, I have thought much about it. I see great difficulties on every hand, and I am not clear what is best, but upon the whole, it seems as if there were more for your going, than against it. If things turn out contrary respecting the house and situation you are in, then it seems as if you must take to that way or door which opens to you. If you were once safe beyond the Atlantic, I doubt not but you might make a livlihood; and I think it would be best for T—— to be there. But there is a liklihood of troubles in America, as the French have their Agents there striving to excite them to war with us. I think if America were to enjoy peace, it wd in 50 years or less be a most flourishing Country, and it is naturally calculated for every thing that is wanted in this life. However let nothing I have said sway you one way or the other; for none of us can see an inch be=fore us: but make your request known unto him who can lead you in the right way. This brings to my mind the going out of Egypt of the Israelites. They were led into a narrow pass or vally between two mountains, the Egyptians were close behind, and the red sea lay directly before them. This was a great strait indeed; dangers and difficulties on all hands. But it is very remark=able that the place where they were ordered to encamp there see (Ex: 14. 2.) is called Pi-hahiroth, which signifies the pass or opening of Liberty. Tho' they were in a strait, yet that was as it were the door, or narrow gate into Liberty. Moses says to them stand still, and see the Salvation of God: and yet in a few verses after God commands them to go forward. This seems contradictory; but it is not: Stand still, depend upon God for deliverance but wait his time and way of doing it: yet go forward. use your limbs and all the powers which God has already endowed you with. and whilst you are using these aright, he will assist.—

these things lest our heads get giddy. What we cannot mend, we must leave, and look chiefly to ourselves. In a storm at sea, tho' we may call out to others to beware of impending dangers, yet we must look well to our own bark, lest it be dashed against the rocks. I hope he will be restored to his family; but should he be removed, they will have more in a temporal sense than he had, and yet God brought him thro'. Surely none ought to trust God more than our family, and we should speak well of him, and encourage others to do the same.— As I am now confined, I was reflecting this morning before I got your letter, on the innumerable mercies conferred on me by a kind Providence, notwithstanding they have been pretty well mixed with some of the bitter. Indeed my life has been chequered; but why should a living man complain! Rather let me say "Oh! to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be!"——

I desire S.— not to puzzle himself about the Church, or Methodists affairs. Many grievious things have arrisen in the Church in every age. But let us remember upon whose shoulders the Government rests; even upon Him who glances thro' immensity, and sees things future as if they were present. Evil has been permitted; but it will soon be all done away: yes, soon, tho' it may seem long to us, who measures out time by years. Baxter's dying thoughts are very pleasing to me, and may be always useful to any one who is reasoning about the Church. Some of his words are these.

"Is it I or God, that must choose his servants, and cut out their work? will not God's will and choice be best? Does God or I know best what is yet to be done, and who is fittest to do it? What am I to those more excellent persons whom in all ages God hath taken out of the world? We know not what is best for the Church, as God does; The Church and the world are not ours, but his: not our desires, therefore, but his will, must measure out its mercies:— As God will be served and pleased by a wonderful variety of animals, and vegetables, so he will by their successive generations. If one flower fall or die, others in future summers shall arise from the same root. God will have other generations to succeed us, let us thank him that we have had our time." We seem to be getting little advantage over the French and notwithstanding all the Powers against them I am inclined to think they will maintain their independency. Much evil and bloodshed has happened; and it seems as God was about to shake terribly the nations. It is well if ours too do not get a share before it be long. I can give little advice, but I strive to recommend you all to Him who is the best Physician, and who knows our disorders best. O that he may restore us all to perfect health of soul, whatever he may do with our bodies!—

Farewell J. C.

My dear sister Jan: 94

I recd. your letter; and know not well what to say with respect our Brother's illness; but would fain hope it is not unto death. I have no intimation of this, only we are apt to hope what we wish. If he is removed, it will be well with him, in being free from a world of misery and confusion; in which he has been greatly tossed. But I see every day more and more the necessity of been crossed and disappointed in every thing here, lest we should be too fond of staying in it. We shall see hereafter that God was most merciful, when most severe.——

His family will be helpless enough; but there is God who will some way take care of them: we have all reason to speak well of him. It is very natural he should feel sensibly for them, and it is our duty, tho' we may carry this too far. Oh! that we could say at all times, and in all circumstances, Father, thy will be done! I fear he did not keep his papers in order. Every one should have their affairs settled, and do it frequently; for when death approaches there is enough to do otherwise and we should have done then with temporal affairs; besides often the mind is not fit for this, and there is a hurry and confusion of Ideas in the person and in those about him. But how hard is it to persuade men to do now what they know they ought to do! ——— There is much distress here, all sorts of trade has failed thro the badness of the times. It appears to me that the distress of Nations will be greater yet; for God is about to work a new work in the Earth. The word of God is fulfilling fast, if people wd. look into it. I saw this clearly the other day, when reading an acct. in the news from Lyons in France; where they got an Ass put the Bishop's mitre on its head, then tied to it many things belonging to the priests, and their books &c; and led it in procession thro' the Town in solemn mockery and held the sacred cups to the Ass to drink out of, and at the end burned all together publickly. See Rev: 17.16. 17. this was done by those who had formerly given their power and strength to the beast; but now they hate the whore, and as it were burn her with fire. Not that we are to think well of those who have acted thus: for they are given up to Infidelity, and all manner of wickedness, and it is very natural for people to go from one extreme to another, they see the superstition and deception of the priests &c and God uses them as instruments in avenging the innocent blood of Millions put to death there in former ages. There is great danger now of people running into Infidelity, after seeing so much evil among the Ministers and professors of religion. And I fear this will not be confined to papists only: There is too much danger even among us: but let men act as they will, religion is always the same. The cause is much hurt here, by these contentions &c I feel for you all, but I can do little more. You have always a friend, who will stick closer than a Brother. To him I commend you and yours. I trust he will bring you thro' all these Storms, to the havan where you would be. Jesus, I trust, will give the victory; and will either support, or finally deliver. Hope and believe to the end. Farewell! Farewell!

J. C.

My dear Sister — April 1st 1794

I have just recd. yours of the 17th and can only write a few of my thoughts in a hurry at present. I am upon the whole better, tho' I have been some time poorly, and had been ill since I wrote last. The Lord wonderfully assisted me on Sund. 13th inst: in the morn. at our great Chapel, as I had to do the whole Service, which including the Sermon, was three hours without any rest. It was rather a critical day in some respects, as there was some change respecting the law suit; but as I have explained it to R— I refr you to his letter. I preached longer than usual and I find the people in general much approved. To God be the praise! —

what advice to give others. I believe the most effectual of all means is prayer. Mr. J. Wesley used to say a great deal upon this point, and at times used to preach a sermon about education of children; but his Bro.r (who had children) said he should let this subject alone, for he knew nothing at all about it. Mr Ch.s Wesley found by experience that he could not change the nature of his children. Tho' my children are kept as yet from outward evil; yet I have great fears concerning them after a time. In all probability they will suffer much when I am gone. But I must strive to give up this point also, and not reason about it. Perhaps they may be better off than I imagine. I have some friends here at present; but when I am gone, these may change, or they also may die. I have been thinking that those things which have happened in our family have been permitted to humble us; lest we should think ourselves or our children better than others by nature. There are mysteries in the ways of Providence which we shall never be able to explain here below; but let us always acquit him, for his ways are equal, and he will be justified in the great day. But we have a proud heart, which is to be brought down; as it is said of the Israelites in Egypt — He brought down their hearts by labour. It is no matter by what means he doth this; but we must be brought down: by afflictions in our persons or families, or some other disaster. O that we may learn to praise the Lord for his goodness &c — and remember, (as Cha.s Wesley saith in a Hymn) he is "most merciful, when most severe." — At the same time that you are in one sense passive and submissive to the will of God; yet you must endeavour to fortify your mind, & not entirely sink under the burden. After all, I think Adversity is a good school: it serves to give energy and power to the mind, which it would not have had, if it had not been so exercised. I think this has been partly my case in my late trial. It drove me to God (as I had none else) it increased my faith and reliance on him; it strengthened not only my mind, but even my very body in an amazing manner; so that I was almost ready for martyrdom. This affair has certainly done me much good in a spiritual sense; for I was too languid before. Nothing more has happened since I wrote to you worth mentioning. I think they will hardly go to extremities with me, I suppose. All I can do is to keep at a distance, but even this is construed to my disadvantage. I drew up the paper I mentioned, but will not print it except I see further, or if I am urged to it.

Great calamities seem to be coming on the earth, and very probably these nations will have a share. Many in this kingdom are dissatisfied with this war; and we shall be burdened with more taxes. Certainly many of our men are killing, tho' it is in some measure kept from us. It will do us no good even tho' we should gain the victory. As to the French nation, the measure of their iniquity seems to be full; and therefore God has given them up. They seem to forget every trace of Christianity and to revive old Paganism again. They are changing days, months and the year, and abolishing the sabbath, and in short all religions. — But God is permitting all this, for some end, or to prepare the way after a time for a purer religion. As to Methodism, there seems to be a falling away; but a third part will be brought thro' the fire (as Mr Cha.s Wesley used to say.) Perhaps the trials in our family will be of use to us, in preparing us for the cloudy day that seems to be near. May God prove a Sun and a Shield to us and ours in that day! —— The Lord has brought me thro' these ten years in a wonderful manner; and I will trust him for all that is to come. "O magnify the Lord with me, &c! — Give our love to Sister H. let her not be cast down: since she has acted for the best, and with an upright intention. Give our love to all the rest of our friends. Farewell. J. C.

My dear Sister

Jan: 7th 1794

I have just now recd: your second letter with the distressing acct
of our Bro-. I incline to think as you do; that much exercise of mind has contributed
chiefly to his present disorder, for the body and mind are so wonderfully blended,
that what effects one will affect the other. The want of sleep, I know is very hurtful
to the body, and the mind too is then greatly agitated; the immagination is very fertile,
and a succession of Ideas rush in with a full tide, so that the mind is wholly borne
down, and the person is scarce capable of exercising its rational faculties. It is very
possible the Enemy too, [is not idle, in adding fuel to the fire or working upon the person as far] is permitted; and endeavours to harrass and perplex as much
as he can. These complaints are very common, and are generally termed nervous.
They are very distressing, and tho' they may arise partly from the exercise of the ima-
gination, yet they become real, and should excite our pity. It does not seem of
much use to enter into reasoning with a person in this way at the time. I be-
lieve one good way may be, to seem to agree to what they say, and to sympathize
with them. To strive to cheer them, or to make them laugh, which people of the
world aim at, is not the way; tho' perhaps a judicious person might lead them by
degrees into a conversation that might draw them in some measure from por-
ing over their own state. This is not easily done: it requires a knowledge of the
world, of men and things: but some useful piece of history might be introduced,
with some reflections, and especially parts of Scripture. The Docters, no
doubt, will account for things in their own way; and say it is the effect of Reli-
gion. But they meet with many cases of this kind every day among the people of the
world, who are not overburdened with religion. They may prescribe such things as
are usual in nervous cases, and what may help the body in the mean time; but
I would not listen much to their prescriptions for the mind; I think they are right
in some degree. If the weather is mild. I agree with them that riding out in the mid-
dle of the day might be useful. Also the cold bath, if it were practicable, or bathing the
head alone in the coldest water. I am not against using means; but we should chief-
ly remember where to look for help in the time of need. There is no state or sta-
tion exempt from afflictions both of the body and mind; and it sometimes seems
as if the Christians are more exercised this way than others: but they will
all work together for good to them that love God, tho' it often seems to us a
great mystery at present. A distressing case has just occurred here. A sin-
gle woman of my acquaintance, about forty, who was pious, a careful daughter to
her mother while she lived, and a mother to her two brothers till they grew up;
she has been growing bad for more than two years partly with nervous complaints
and partly with reasoning. She is I hear put into a mad house the other day.
She used to come frequently to me for advice. These cases are so common here,
that they seem to think less of them than with you; but they are very pitiable.
Oh! what is human nature at the best; but especially when we are deranged
in our mind! Tell R-- I desire him not to puzzle himself about his family
at present. It will do them no good, let him think as he will. His business is to
see to compose his own mind, and use a little means to strengthen his body, which
may help to restore him to them, that he may be useful to them a little longer.
~~Dy~~ But giving [way] to anxiety about what may or may not happen to them, will rather
retard his recovery. And we know there is a Father that will take care of
them, who has a greater right in them than we have, and knows what is best
for them and us. It is very natural, I know, to have tender feelings for them
upon viewing the world, in which we have been tossed, and seeing the dange-
rous snares even in the religious world: but it will not bear to look long at.

I heard that the greater part of the meeting then were in my favour but I suspect one or two D--opposed. However I rested satisfied expecting still that something w^d^ be done by and by. But in about six weeks an untruth was propagated concerning me, that I had assisted ~~the~~ Trustees in correcting their letters which they published at that time against some of the D--s and the party in connection with them. I had seen nothing of these letters nor knew a syllable of what was in them till after they had been published. I gave a plain and full answer to the person who first mentioned it to me; and thought little more about it, but a month afterwards I saw the design of spreading that untruth, for the steward when he came to pay me my quarter's salary, said they could not make an addition to it because I had taken part with the Trustees, and this had hurt me with the people. I told him it was not truth. Matters respecting me then lay over till the beginning of Augt during the Conf: a paper was printed in answer to the Trustees (which I mentioned before to you) in this a hint or slander was thrown out against Br^r^ D - n and me, as if we had been bribed by the money of the Trustees to join them. But we could be of no use to the Trustees at any rate, and were striving to be neuter, and friendly with both parties. About this time I printed the small state of my case before mentioned in order to give some of my friends to remove mistakes which had been concerning me from my first coming here, and also these last untruths. In the end of this I stated how my sixty Guineas is now laid out, and then shewed that the lay preachers have in fact a great deal more than me some of them near three times. This paper tho' I gave it to few has been lately given to the chief preacher and the stewards. He and three more had a meeting with me yesterday morning relative to it. They made objections to it and S - n said I had not fairly stated their income, and some other things which he said reflected on Mr. W-y, and those stewards who had met and do conduct the temporal acc^ts^. I said then to him that I would enlarge the pamphlet and make it more publick; at this he and they seemed to take fire, and expostulated with me a long time saying it w^d^ do no good, and would prejudice the people more against me. A great many words were used on this occasion to little effect. I did not positively assert that I will publish, but I mean to draw ^up^ something if it be only for the satisfaction of my family hereafter, and some of my private friends at present. After I returned home from them yesterday, I opened the Bible (as I sometimes do on like occasions to find consolation) and the place was Psal: 72. 12. 13. 14. which you may read. I also found more of the presence of God in the evening and last night than I had done for months past: so that I trust I am still in some degree in his favour, notwithstanding all my unfaithfulness & imperfections. But I see clearly I must suffer much more yet before I am truly refined. I have as I said slept little; for tho' I am prepared for the worst, and can trust God, yet I cannot refrain from thinking of these and many ^other^ things which prevents my sleep. The thoughts of my children affect me most, not so much on their temporal acc^t^ but foreseeing what they are likely to meet ~~with~~ when I am laid in the dust. Little do they know this day what I am suffering on their acc^t^ nor can they ever know it in this world. I wish I could entertain you with better things, but it is natural for us to tell our grievances to our

friends; and especially those who are suffering themselves. But there is a land of rest, where I trust we shall all meet at last. But still I am not so bad as you might at first imagine; for I have many friends here, and most of them friends too, who have long known something of my situation, and I believe will not desert me. Don't spare to let me know all your grievances, even tho' I cannot help you. I still at my deadest times have endeavoured to pray for you all, and also to meet you before the throne every day that I am at home between one and two in the afternoon. I have now compleated my ten years in London. Oh! what has my gracious God brought me thro'! give our love to all friends.

Farewell! — J. C.

My dear Sister — Novr 4: 1793

I rec^d yours of the 24th ult. and can sympathize with you. I agree with you also in experience for the most part. It is certainly an alleviation of our grief to open our mind to a friend, ~~even~~ tho' that friend can do little more than to sympathize with us. The experience of Christians agrees for the most part, tho' the circumstances may vary a little. I find as you do, that when I grow cold or languid, my heavenly Father is obliged to correct, or permit something to happen to stir me up to pray, and to fly again to him as the only refuge. Oh! what a long-suffering God is our God! For more than six months past I had good health, yet I ~~felt~~ found a barrenness and backwardness to prayer; tho' I still strove to go at the usual times and felt a consciousness of this backwardness. However I bless his name, I still felt that the general tendency of the soul was towards him, and a design to do what was right. When I have any respite from sickness or trial I am expecting that something will happen, and this in some measure prepares me for it. There is nothing so good a teacher as our own experience. We ought to learn by the things we have suffered. Indeed the promise is that our strength shall be in proportion to our day: but I am persuaded our trials ~~shall be in~~ will increase also as we advance toward Canaan: and it is fit it should be so, that we may feel our weakness, and the need of flying to the strong for help, just as at first. It is fit that our faith should be kept in constant exercise; and therefore God does not shew us an inch of the way before us, that we may learn to walk by faith, and not by sight. Now tho' we have heard this a thousand times, yet as I said, it is our own experience that rivets the truth upon our minds. —— With respect to your J——, I believe you could have done no more in the present instance. He will very probably suffer in one way or other; but perhaps that is the only thing to bring him to his senses; as the story of the prodigal shews us. You must hope against hope. And perhaps God is giving you to feel your utter helplessness in this case also, as well as with respect to your own nature. The work is a work of Omnipotence alone, to make a creature new. It is possible there was an error in the manner of treating him in the beginning; for I believe many religious parents have erred in using too much severity, thinking to change the nature the tree by outward pruning or dressing (that is by correction &c) which is impossible. On the other hand, there is a danger of giving children their own will in every thing. There is some kind of desciplin to be used; but after all I have thought about this matter, I am more and more at a loss what steps to take myself or

they were afraid of their lives, or that he w^d^ burn the house, at length they got him into a kind of prison, and the father was obliged to take some oath in order to get him in: think what the father must feel at this: after keeping him there some months, they got him persuaded to go to the East Indias as an officier, and bought a commission for him; he is there now, and has cost them many hundreds or some thousands: the other son was sent to a Merc.t in a northern nation to learn business, and was their only hope: on hearing of his fathers death, he grew melancholly, and then lost his reason, after being there in that state half a year with great cost of Docters, she has at length got him home with amazing expence, has Docters now attending, and a man to live in the room to take care of him, & go out with him: he does not speak but is rather silly, he eats tolerably. The Docter in the beginning for some weeks took 20 guineas a week, but now takes only a guinea a visit; she pays the man a guinea a week and his board, beside the Apothecary's bill, and many other things, this was her favourite son: beside all this she has lost in trade since Christ^s^ upwards of a thousand pounds, I believe upon the whole, she is worse at this time than you are, notwithstanding all her money. I know some other instances almost of the same nature, but it is too long to mention them. I mention this only to remind us of what we have heard a thousand times, that this world is not our resting place, and that no station in life is exempt from troubles and bitterness. I know not what to say to you about your son: it is in vain to harrass your mind too much about him; for this will depress you and only render you more unfit for what is your duty in other respects. You will be obliged to give him up, and let him take a fling for a while, till he suffers and buys experiance, and perhaps he may come to himself in a far country, or when he is in want; but your prayers must follow him, and remember that where ever he goes, the eyes of the Lord will be upon him, and his ears will be open to your cries. This is your refuge: and the name of the Lord is a strong tower, to which we may always fly for succour in the day of trouble. Perhaps the Lord will prove you and force you to give him up into his hands entirely: then it is that he shews himself to be Jehovah, almighty to save; Remember Abraham, it had gone to the last extremity, before the Angel took hold of his hand, and stopped it from executing the Deed. Now tho' our case is not exactly similar; yet we are all called in one way or other to imitate Abraham: Oh! for faith, mighty faith! This it that removes mountains of difficulties, and makes the rough ways even, or at least makes them appear so. We must be brought down by one means or other to a full submission to the will of God in all things: and we do not do this, untill we feel our perfect helplessness, and also can find no help from any creature: then we are obliged to stand still and see the salvation of God. This was the situation of the Israelites, when they were pursued by Pharaoh and his hosts behind, a great mountain on either hand of them, and the sea just before them. Their extremity was God's opportunity. Moses desires them to stand still, &c and yet in the next verse they are commanded to go forward: this seems strange; and yet we are to do the same in our way; to stand still in one sense, and yet in another to go forward. We are to wait upon the Lord, and his salvation; but we are to go forward, by using rational means and exercising faith, yea hoping again st hope. See Ex: 14. 13, 15. I made some observations of this kind last Octr preaching from Psal: 107:7. My strength has been greatly restored since March last, so that I have gone thro' my labours with greater ease, and have not altogether laboured in vain. —— My situation in some respects, is growing more and more difficult, as some are jealous and

stirred up, and are secretly I fear, stirring up some of the undiscerning people against me and the other Clergyman, telling them we are their enemies and are joined to the Trustees; tho' we do not interfere at all: and they ~~and they~~ act so as not to appear themselves, but what is done is done in the name of a Committee chosen out of the Leaders and some others. This Committee printed a paper at the time of Conference, in answer to one circulated by the Trustees thro' the kingdom to the other Trustees &c In this they throw out a hint thus — "It is highly probable their money (meaning the Trustees) has gained over to them two Priests (meaning the other Clergyman and me) but not one preacher." — This is a vile slander and will do to their cause no good in the end. these things the ignorant people ~~[illegible]~~ swallow down. I do not mean to take any notice of it, and there would be no end. I still think every thing is working some way for my good, tho' these things are grievious. ——

It seems as if the Devil had got a fresh commission to go forth to slay, destroy, divide, and spread lies thro' the earth: he rages horribly, knowing his time is short. Many of our men are slaughtering in the war abroad, tho' the Governt keeps it from us as far as they can, and boast that we are gaining victories. All things here are very dear; but there is a good harvest so far, I wonder how the people in Ireland have got thro' this summer. my wife is not well the rest all are midling. Our love to all friends.

Farewell. —— J. C.

Octr 8th 1793

My dear Sister

I am uneasy to hear about my bror Robts health, as you mentioned in yours that he was ill. If he is worse let me hear, and let me know how you and the rest of our distrest family go on. We have all gone thro' some difficulties, and hitherto the Lord has helped us; but we must still expect more as long as we are on this ~~[illegible]~~ tempestuous ocean. It is hard to tell which of us is worst, nor is it needful to enquire into that; but each have, and will have as much as they can bear. I still feel some satisfaction in sympathizing with you, tho' I cannot help you; and I believe it is the same with you towards me. But the best of all is, we have a friend who is touched with our infirmities, and feels our every care; and I trust he will still be with us, and stand by us as we pass thro' the waters, or thro' the fire. I am now in a fresh furnace, and perhaps it may be hotter by and by: but I trust it will tend to refine me, for I know I want it much. I had been tolerable easy and pretty well in health for half a year past, but I was not satisfied with my inward state. I have thank God still tolerable health, but I have slept very little these few nights on acct of a war which is begun between ~~[illegible]~~ one of the parties and me. I will endeavour to state it in as brief a manner as I can at present. When I resigned my place in the press, I intended to apply to the people in a little while for some addition to my salary; but as I got something at Conference, I waited till it was spent, and at Christs last I applied to the stewards when they were to meet to settle the quarterly accts to help me a little, and drew up a short state of my case since my conversion and gave it to one of them that he might relate it to the rest: I believe he did so, but nothing was then done, as their income was lessened by the disputes; only there was a hint that by and by something might be done to help me.

and I fear the rising generation of F——s will not be so simple or humble as those who bore the burthen and heat of the day forty years ago. Whether I am right or wrong in my conjectures, my intention is pure; and I would wish to caution my relations against these things before I lie down in the dust. It behoves us to be much in prayer for ourselves, our Children, the Church and the nation. It is in vain for me to puzzle myself about my Children. I must shortly leave them upon a wide ocean (the world) subject to storms on every side: I see nothing else but dangers. There is a Pilot, however, and he alone can bring them safe to Land.— Just as I finished my last letter to M— I felt myself growing ill, and have been dangerously ill since, that once more brought me to the brink of Jordon.

I commend you all to the guardian care of the great Shepherd—

J. G.

May 6th 1793

My dear Sister

This day I have recd yours, and was much affected at most of its contents: yet amidst all these trials we have great cause to be thankful to that God who hath hitherto provided for us, and brought us thro' this howling wilderness. I can give you little advice, only still to trust that same God, and cast your care upon him. But what are all our sufferings here, if he shall count us meet to stand before him in the great day, or with myriads to worship at his feet! Thrice blessed bliss, &c

I felt for you all during the winter, on many accounts, as I occationaly heard a little of what passed in the kingdom. It is a mercy that you have got a little respite from your fears, and it is the best way to make the best use of the present time, to consider what to do, or how to be ready for any future alarm. I don't see things are likely to end in peace shortly; for it seems to me there is more in all matters than some will allow. I think I see the hand of God, and his rod is lifted up to scourge the nations for their rebellion against himself. The wisest man cannot see an inch before him; but we may learn some thing from the history of past ages, and from the word of God, and make some observations accordingly. Many are looking into old prophecies, and old sermons where the writers gave their conjectures and thoughts. One of these (printed in 1701) thought that popery would get a great blow about this time, and adds "perhaps the French Monarchy may be considerably humbled about that time. It may waste insensibly, 'till it be exhausted at last towards the end of this century." There are others who speak somewhat to the same purport. But I have read one by Dr Gill, a Dissenting minister, preached here in 1750, in which he thinks popery wd have greater power than ever, tho' it wd be but a short time. Perhaps papists in Ireland may get greater power; but I can hardly think that popery itself will increase in the world in general, as it can only prevail where there is ignorance, but the world at large is getting some kind of light, tho' I fear it tends to Infidelity rather than true Gospel light at present. The bad conduct of Ministers tends to make sensible men Deists or Infidels, as they naturally conclude there is no reality in religion, as they see men act so inconsistent with their profession. I fear some among us will not be innocent in this respect, as they seem to have departed from that simplicity with which they set out.— There is no sign of peace: the suit is depending in the courts; but there is so many critical terms respecting law that even the Lawyers cannot tell how it will be ~~paid, and~~ They will be paid, and they care little about the matter.

Our congregations are lessening, and many going to other places, as there are Gospel Ministers now in abundance, and many of them men of great abilities. Some of our preachers are contending to have the people in implicit obedience to them in every thing, and yet they do this in such a way, that few of the people see it: indeed they seem to have greater power over their people, than the Church of Rome has over theirs at present. But they will be gradually found out, and they will only hurt their own cause in the end. ——

Mrs Blair wrote to me the day after her husbands death. He was taken away from the evil to come. He was faithful in his day, and he is now entered into rest. O how little did I expect to have survived him! I feel such a loss in him as language cannot express. I am not purged from all my dross, and am therefore left a little longer in the fire. I thank God I enjoy a good degree of tranquility of mind, and am much better in body than in the winter! I am also kindly treated by many of the most respectable and discerning of the people. It appears likely our family will soon be scattered from one another. Oh! may we be found at last bound up together in the bundle of life! It is probable you must all look out for some other habitation: but you must take a little time to consider the matter well; and therefore the present respite of peace you have got is a mercy. I can have little expectation of meeting any of you in time; I must therefore leave you to the guardian care of him that hath hitherto been your friend. Oh! may we adore him and love him with all our powers! Look back at what he has done, and it will encourage you to trust him in future.——

Give my love to all friends. Farewell! —— —— J. C.

Aug: 31st 1798

My dear Sister

I recd yours in due time, but deferred answering it for some time.— I know not where to begin or what to say, only it is plain our voyage thro' life will be a boisterous one, and such it has been; but we have still a hold of our anchor, and I trust we shall get some how to the haven of rest at last:—— Thrice blessed bliss, inspiring hope! &c ——

As there is a promise, that strength shall be given us according to our day so it is plain, that our trials shall increase as we get forward in the divine life, and therefore our faith and every grace will be as much exercised to the end of the race, as when we just set out. However it is well that all the difficulties are pointed out in the word of GOD, and that we find our experience in some measure tally's with it: no temptation has befallen us, but what is common to men; tho' it may vary in many circumstances. I see many tried exceedingly, tho' they have much of this world's goods, and life is embittered to them from various causes. Some of these tell me their troubles, that I may give them some consolation. This serves also to make me thankful and contented; for, after all that I have gone thro', and am likely to go thro', I see that I am much easier in many respects than thousands tho' they are rolling in wealth. I am intimate with a woman here, whose husband died last Novr. and was worth, I believe near twenty thousand pounds. He was a German by birth, and a foreign Merct. here. He was not of our society, but a good man, mostly attended our Chapel. They had two sons: the eldest was a prodigal indeed, I believe I have mentioned him before in a former letter. He was the plague of their lives, got into bad company, would go out well dressed in the day, and often come home at midnight or in the morning, stripped almost naked:

The situation of affairs is very serious here, and I suppose it will be more
so in Ireland. We are therefore to be engaged in prayer for ourselves
and the nation at large. — Farewell I am yours as ever. J. C.

My Dear Sister London Feb: 18th 1793

In the midst of deserved wrath we have been spared thro'
mercy to this year which is expected by many to be one of the most re-
markable recorded in history. And many are calling to mind or enquiring
about old prophecies. Yet the wisest cannot tell what will be on the morrow,
but as the events come to pass. Yet all seem agreed that very great events are
at the doors. Indeed we have seen and heard of wonderful things within these three
or four years, which human wisdom could not have foreseen ten years ago. It seems
that France had filled up the measure of her iniquity's; and therefore the
Lord has given up the Inhabitants thereof to destroy each other, and the remain-
der to be scourged by the nations around. They have cast off all form of religion
even openly denied the Being of a God. — It is our business however to hum-
ble ourselves mightily, for tho' we retain much of the form, and I trust still some
of the power of religion, yet this is but little in comparison of the light and
opportunity we have had in our day of visitation. Indeed this nation has been
wonderfully defended by many signal interpositions of Providence; yet
still impiety is arrived at a very great height among the greater number,
and those who should set a better example to the lower class. But each indivi-
dual of us should take shame to ourselves and each endeavour to reform him-
self. When each individual and each family apart do begin this work, then per-
haps God may still be entreated to turn away his anger from these guilty
lands. Tho' the troubles are likely to begin first with you; yet no doubt we
shall have our share here also. There was a very great alarm here before
Christmass but by the timely steps taken by the government much mis-
chief has been prevented, at least for the present. Great preparations have
been made for war, and it is now ~~begun~~ commenced for the French have
taken a few of our trading vessels; and we are taking theirs when we can
get them, but they have little to lose, and are grown desperate, inasmuch as
they provoked all the Nations around to attack them. They have even provoked
the Pope, and threatened his territories. Popery (or the Beast) has been great-
ly wounded; but some say it will revive in these nations again for a while; and they
understand the two witnesses spoken of in the Rev: who was dead for three days
and half, to be the true religion which will be trampled on for three years and a half.
I don't pay much regard to this interpretation; tho' it is probable Satan may
still get power to triumph over the woman for a while, for his time is short, tho'
he cannot entirely destroy her or her child. A prophecy has been lately put
into the news-papers. It is related by Mr. Wesley in his Sermon on 1 Cor: 13
Chap: printed in the Magazine a few years ago. One of the Soldiers who was
then pious, in the Army in Flanders in the year 1745 foretold the down-
fall of the bloody house of Bourbon, and the haughty house of Austria. —
Mr Wesley was speaking of the gift of prophecy which a man may have,
and yet perish. Many other things are now related or referred to which
were not attended to when they were spoken or written. I believe this was
the case often with the prophecies of old: they were then little attended to; and
some of the meanest or simple ones were employed to declare them. —

I have thought for two years past that the innocent blood shed in France has been crying from the ground, and God is now avinging it. They murdered hundreds of thousands of Protestants there a century or two ago. The down-fall of Spain, Austria, and those others who formerly worshiped the whore, will certainly fall, and hate her. How soon this will happen, we cannot tell: but it seems not to be far off. Whatever is recorded in the book of God, will certainly be fulfilled in due time. It is our business to look well to ourselves, that we may be found watching, whatever events may happen or whenever we may be called. — I think God is jealous with the Meth- as a Body, because of their unfaithfulness; and is permitting them to scourge one another. This is the case here at least. Indeed we have had little but war among us for a year and a half past, and it seems to grow worse. The two parties here have put the suit into the courts, which will cost a great deal, and the Judges & Lawyers are laughing, as they must be paid at any rate: and the infidel world and our enemies no doubt are rejoicing. The people are torn to pieces and divided in their judgements and consequently in their affections: and many that were friendly hearers have gone away to other places where they can hear the Gospel without being disturbed with contention. In every street almost & in many of the Churches they can hear the Gospel preached either more or less, and by men of far greater abilities than any among us. It is not so with you, as there is few religious people with you but the Methᵈˢ. I keep out of the fire as well as I can, and don't enter into disputes with either party, for I can do them no good, nor get good; and being most confined by sickness I am seldom out, and therefore escape, so this is a mercy.
The parties here are publishing pamphlets against each other; so that let who will be right, the cause of religion suffers. It is a difficult point to expose the conduct of some persons (even when they deserve it) because religion is hurt; and then on the other hand, if they are not opposed in what is wrong, religion will be hurt, and they themselves will be hardened or fall. They have laid a foundation for such power over the people as may be very dangerous hereafter, in case they abuse that power; of which we have seen some instances here. By the traveling plan they may do great good or great harm. If they are cunning or designing men (for 'tis impossable to prevent such persons geting in unawares) they can learn the circum-stances of families, and can tell others of their party, if they should come next, and is prepared, and if any one is more discerning than the rest and likely to oppose their power, they will watch over him, or get him out of Society, and then he is represented as a fallen man, so that all he can say will have no weight. This is a great evil; and it is likely to be the case, if the people are not apprized of their danger: but it is not easy to put them on their guard, for fear of hurting them; for if you suspect a man, or are prejudiced against him in any measure, you cannot profit by him. It is your business to be much on your guard, but say little, and get all the good you can by hearing them. I hope the P—s with you are yet simple, and not yet acquainted with some things I see wrong in some here. You cannot judg of the bad use that is made of power in the hands of some men, and in many respects, as I hope it is not yet practised among you; but what has been done in some places may be done in others also. You see there are difficulties on every hand: but you may think something about them, and guard yourselves as well as you can. I have lived to see these dangerous corruptions creeping in among Meth-

The disputes here are not like to be at an end. The Trustees of the New Chapel are going to law about it. I strive to be neuter, and say as little as possible to either. I go very little among them, yet this does not please some, because I do not heartily espouse their cause. An Angel could hardly know how to act, or escape censure. I am sorry to have these things to mention to you; but dont let them sink your spirits, which may be low enough already. You have as much to bear in your way; and so will every one as long as he is here — There is a great ferment at Bristol too, and jealousies and divisions in several places; all which point out evils approaching fast. Pamphlets and papers are publishing on all hands. A new Chapel has been built at Bristol by the influence of the P—s, because the Trustees of the other two there have a good deal in their power to controul the P—s. At the opening of this new Chapel (soon after Conf:) Mr. B—n put on a Gown, and made another put on a surplice and read the prayers for him. This caused much talk, and some were offended. The Clergymen of the parish published a letter, shewing the impropriety of the preachers in assuming the dress, and in deavouring to deceive the people &c B—n answered in a keen way, which gave more offence. The Trustees of the other Chapels published their disapprobation of B—n, he replyed to them. These things are getting out more and more into the world, so that we shall be a byword among the heathen. The pious and sensible are mourning every where in secret. It seems the Lord has a controversy with us as a people. Indeed there seems to be mighty commotions in the earth at hand, and some have taken place. There is something working in this nation, and also with you the papists in Ireland are very bold grown, and many priests are here now fled from France, who by and by may propagate their religion. I fear you have had a melancholy harvest with you. It has been so here, and bread is risen greatly on account of it. Every thing bears a dismal prospect. About a fortnight after I returned home from the sea I caught cold, and soon lost all the little strength I had gained. Being forced to go out on the Sundays I relapsed again and again, it is wonderful how I stand. As I have been attacked so early in the season, ~~would~~ and it is not likely that I can get thro' the winter, I am but poorly to day. Farewell — our love to all friends

J. C.

My dear Sister Dec: 7th 1792

The rect of your letter, and the things contained in it, served ~~served~~ to add to my afflictions; but I endeavour to console myself with the thought that all these things will soon be at an end. May they have the desired effect upon us all, and bring us into a perfect acquiescence in the will of GOD! We deserve to be chastised for our unfaithfulness and lukewarmness in his service; for surely we have been highly favoured above thousands with Gospel light, tho' we have seen and felt many things grievous to be borne. The times we live in are likely to be still more perilous, both respecting the Nation and the Church. I think I see the hand of GOD in all this; for tho' wicked men are ~~likely to be still more~~ the agents in commotions and disturbances both at home and abroad; yet GOD overrules, or makes them in the end some way subservient to his own cause. When Israel went astray, or forgot him

him, he suffered the Nations around to come in upon them and punish them but then afterwards he punished or brought down these also, or, (as we say) after he had used the rod, he then burned it. A universal shaking of the nations seems to be begun, and will spread more and more; and tho' in the convulsion much evil will take place, yet a calm will succeed, & there will be a door opened for the more effectually spreading the universal Gospel. The prophecies are fulfilling fast; but many events are yet to take place, before the end, or before the commencement of the Millennium. Some have calculated this to have begun before now, and others suppose it is near 200 years distant yet. I am inclined to think these last are nearest the mark. No doubt every thing will come to pass in God's own time; and however long it may seem to us, with him a thousand years are as one day, or as a moment with respect to Eternity. Our business is to make a proper use of the present time as probationers for another state; and to bestir ourselves so much the more as our life here is drawing to a close. We know it will be well with the righteous both at death and for ever. Oh! may we be of that number! We read also that the name of the Lord is a strong tower, into which the righteous may run, in times of storms and trouble. O may he give us wisdom to fly unto him, and teach us to shelter ourselves under his wings in the dark and cloudy day! In an old sermon which I met some where some years ago, upon that Text Isaiah 21. 11. 12. are these words, which applicable to the present times, as well as when they were written.— "Both a bright morning of peace and comfort, and a black evening of ~~comfort~~ crosses and calamities may be expected in succession. After a morning of Gospel light, we may prepare for an evening of darkness.—— It is no time to delay; no time to trifle: the night is coming on, the night of trouble, the night of trial; the night of death. If it be asked, what hour of the night it is with us of these nations? It may perhaps be said, it is the dead hour of the night. Oh! what dead hearts, dead frames, dead preaching and prayer, dead Sabbaths and Sacraments! Is it not a night of division, wherein the anger of the Lord hath divided us? A night of delusion, wherein the ~~anger of the~~ darkness of error abounds? Gospel truths are trodden down, and the Gospel way of salvation little known, even by some that are Teachers of others."—— I fear these words are too applicable to the Meth.- at this day; tho' I trust there is much good doing in many places. But much evil is done by our divisions and contentions, not only to ourselves, but to other religious people, and to religion in general. I strive to say very little, and tho' I have formed my judgment in some measure long since, yet I have not taken an active part against the ---- what hurts them most in the eyes of discerning people is their struggle for temporal power; and this will prevent their usefulness. It is a foolish thing to be aiming at this now, when even the Church of Rome is every day losing more and more of her influence. Men are opening their eyes; but the danger is, by looking at the defects of ministers and especially ~~at~~ those who aim at arbitrary power, they are ready to conclude that religion is all a farce, and therefore are hardened in their infidelity.

It seems as if God has a controversy with the Meth.ts in England, as he is suffering them to be so divided in their judgments about outward circumstances, relating to their worship &c. From what I can learn the people and preachers of Ireland are in a better way, and the work prospers in many places. It is best for you to say nothing about these things, only what relates to Spirituals and the internal work. Seem to know little about disputes or divisions; and endeavour to profit by all you can. In the nature of things, it must be that the knowledge of such things must hurt, and bring coldness upon us, or cause us to enter into reasoning. Yet we should remember that we, yea every one contributes a little to the general decline of religion in any place. Your observation is just, that we seldom retain our charity and simplicity in proportion as our knowledge increases. The people are getting more knowledge, I think, and the ministers should increase too in knowledge and grace, or they cannot profit the people. Some of our P---s, especially some that have been here of late years, are very insolent and overbearing; and yet being bred in low life, they know not how to conduct in a proper manner, and thus brings reflections upon those connected with them who are innocent. Those persons will retort by saying they will not favour the rich, or some such expressions; but this is only evasion; for some of them did court the richer sort, till they had given disgust, and then whoever opposes them in any thing whether he is rich or poor, is then represented in a bad light. But there is a proper degree of respect due to every man, without flattering or cringing to him. And most of our people here are not rich comparatively, tho' they are obliged to appear differently from the country people outwardly. There is a degree of outward conformity to the place and station we are in, which is consistant with humility and inocence. The wearing a coarse coat &c will not make a man humble; tho' I think every one should aim at plainess. If you were to hear a thousand things that may be said about promoting trade, and employing people in business, you would change your mind in many things. It is a better way of charity to keep a person employed, than to give him money in a way of idleness or begging; both the mind and body ought always to ~~have~~ be properly employed. A Lady lately was conversing with me on this subject. She said a few years ago, she was getting a cloak made, and was resolved to have no lace on it, for conscience sake; the woman from whom she was getting the materials for it, said to her, Madam, I entreat you to have lace, for if you knew how many families in that branch are now absolutely starving for want of employment, you would melt ~~into~~ in tears, therefore for conscience sake you ought to take it. The same might be said upon other occasions; for there are many things which at first sight might appear to us sinful, which appears otherwise when we hear all things. As to myself I wear just as I did 20 years ago; but I make allowance in many things for others; yet I hate vanity and conformity to the ungodly world as much as ever. With respect to J. Travers, tho' the love of money is a dreadful evil, and a snare; yet perhaps even in him one may make some allowance on account of his ignorence and manner of life. People who have earned or scraped up money are in more danger of loving it than others; because they know the value of it, and how hard it was attained. The Sermon I am now printing in the Magazine is on that text If riches encrease, Set not thine heart upon them.

Several of the preachers have lately met at Manchester, at which three of them were ordained by the rest. I suppose they will all do this gradually at last; as some of them have long wished to administer the Sacraments, and some of them to wear gowns and bands. Many of the people do not like this deviation from old Meth—m and fear it will not tend to the good of the cause or the glory of GOD. Most of the people here are against it; and the Trustees of the New Chappel are striving to guard against it. But they will have hard work of it, tho' they have the Chapel in a great measure in their power. The L---s are stirred up against them &c. The greater part of the people cannot see these things in a true light. this produces disputes and will I fear more and more. The trustees are going to print an acc.t of the matter; then the others will reply, as the did about Dr W---; so that there will be nothing but confusion. I thank the Lord, I have the favour of most all the people rich and poor; and the Trustees of the New Chapel are resolved to support the Clergy in it, and not let the preachers administer the Sacr—t in it; but I know this will cause much strife; so that I often wish to get to the havan of rest; and I envy good Mr Ch—n who got away in Feb: out of the storm in time. Oh! what a world is this? But we must stay till we are dismissed.— I have sometimes thought of your dream, and seemed to interpret it, that our attempt=ing to remove the trees or plant them elsewhere, meant our attach=ment to the connection was less; but still I trust the root is in us. Many here are looking about to go elsewhere; and some cannot bear to hear our Assistant at all. He has stirred up strife in o=ther places before he came here; but he is publishing his life by him=self in order to oppose what may be said against him.——

I endeavour to pray for you all tho' in a feeble manner, for I feel much deadness; and so many things are starting up every day, that I am driven hither and thither. Still I have some hope that we will meet in a happier clime, where we shall feel these storms no more.

Farewell in the Lord! J. C

My dear Sister Nov.r 1 1792

After another scene of affliction I sit down a little to drop you a few lines. I can be of little use to you in giving you consolation or directions how to steer forward thro' this howling desart; neither can the relation of my trials do you any good; only you may know that I am still under the cross, and likely to be so, whilst in the body. But I fear I do not profit by these things as much as I should; I still feel wants within. Oh! when will all my wanderings end, and I no longer grieve the GOD of love! We are all in many respects like the Israelites in the wilderness, after they were brought thro' the sea, and delivered from the yoke of bondage. On the 14th of Oct.r I preached at Weststreet Chapel from Psal: 107. 7. and it pleased the Lord to make it a blessing to many: some gave public thanks in the afternoon for what they had received. Thus he is pleased to give me a little lift when I am cast down. You cannot conceive what I have to bear from some here, they have such artifices & cunning. They tell the people that we Clergy do little or nothing.——

making. It is well for her poor mother, she is at rest, and does not feel these things; tho' I sometimes think our friends perhaps see us, and act as guardian angels to us here. I put in a few thoughts, to this purpose in our Mag: a few months ago. There are good accounts from several in Ireland, I hear from Mr Blair, so that still the Lord is at work, notwithstanding some disagreeable things in other places. Perhaps we look sometimes too at the worst side of things, or consider only what is doing in the particular place where we live. This is not wholly right. We must hope the best, and believe that things may be better in other places, tho' we don't see them. It is observed that in those places in Asia where the christian religion first began, there was a falling away first, and now there is no trace to be found there. Some apply this to Methodism in London; but I know there are many sincere simple souls here both among us and other people. Indeed the greater part of our people here are poor working people, they are so hard wrought that they have not time to acquire much knowledge, or to converse with one another. In the country societies they all know one another and often converse with each other, and they read more; but it is quite otherwise in London, the people in general only know each other's faces at the public Service, except those of each particular class, and they are immersed in business early and late. I think no people on earth work harder than they do here. This keeps them in a great degree ignorent of many things; and I often think it is best for them so to be, for if they were to know many things that happen, it would puzzle them to much, or make them think there is no reality in religion. I have been often grieved for them this winter, when sometimes after preaching, they are entertained with a harangue, chiefly stating this affair about Dr D— which sets them a talking the whole week after, and roots up all the good seed that has been sown. They get a wrong impression upon their minds, from the manner things are represented. They are inocent, because they speak as they believe. This makes those who have discernment to be distressed, and finds its in vain to argue with those people, and therefore are obliged to hold their tongue and grieve in Secret. I strive to say as little as I can, except to a few sensible persons. The most of those who seem to me to have sense and piety think nearly as I do. There are many of the simple ignorent ones, of whose piety I have no doubt, who are quite of the opposite opinion, and I don't think it safe, or choose to open their eyes, for it might hurt them. I think this cannot always last some of the chief persons will gradually get more and more loosened from each other, and one or another drop off and join other Sects, or go back into the Church. I think the light will spread more yet among the Church Clergy. It is quite different here and in many parts of England from what it is with you. There are many enlightened men in many Churches, who preach Christ crucified, they are greater preachers than ours; and in general, I understand that wherever Clergymen are really converted they are more humble than our preachers, and many of the people now begin to see the difference. It most commonly happens that those who are raised from a low sphere of life, forget themselves, and become the most insolent and over bearing, but pride will always get a fall. Now those who were bred in higher life, are not in such danger, after their conversion they are rather coming down lower and lower, and as they before saw things in higher life,

and now see the vanity of them, they are not so readily intoxicated with them again. It seems to me that God is jealous; and as he raised up the Meth[ts] to provoke others; so now he will raise up others to provoke them. One of our Clergymen (Mr Richardson) died yesterday. He has been among the Meth[s] here about 30 years, and has been tried all manner of ways, was a quiet peaceable man, lived a few miles out of town and for some years past only came in, and preached on Sunday morning. He is landed safe from the storms that are now blowing and likely to blow harder than ever. The righteous are taken away from the evil to come. There will be new regulations among us this Conference. The preachers will no doubt administer the Sacraments, and some of them will hardly wait till then. Some already do it in some Societies, Liverpool & Birmingham) —

Farewell! Let us fight on. We shall soon get to the haven. Amen! —

J. C.

My Dear Sister April 27th 1792

I rec[d] yours. I was afraid all was not well, as I had heard from none of you for three months. It has been a time of affliction with ~~you~~ me and 3 of my children in the small pox. &c. I caught a desperate cold about the middle of Feb: which had almost finished me, as my constitution is so worn. This has been a trying half year in a Spiritual sense to many here. It is impossible for me to relate one thousand part; and perhaps if you were on the Spot you would be puzzled out of your wits. Yet hitherto I believe I have escaped as well as most; and I thought when I was confined by sickness even that was a mercy, for I was more out of the way of hearing or feeling the blasts and storms. I always strive to keep as much at home as I can and not enter into debates; but from my business I am obliged some times to meet with the —— I was for the most part silent, for my frame is so worn, & consequently the nerves of my head weak, I can not enter into contentions. I have but a small part in respect to the matter put into the Magazine, only it comes thro' my hands, and yet if any fault is found, some strive to lay it upon me. I believe I shall be obliged to give it up at Conf: tho' it will be a loss. The thoughts too of my Dying soon out of their way, I suppose save me a little from their insults. So this also is mercy. But I am spared a little longer to correct me for my unfaithfulness. Oh! what a long-suffering and merciful God have we to do with! I expect my trials will still increase as long as I am in the body; yet I hope to be preserved some way tho' it be but scarcely. I have some reliance upon God that he will bring my children thro' as he hath me; but I think they will have hardships. The greatest evil I see is in the people being divided in their affections from each other, which is the consequence of the disputes, and each telling their story to the people, and so making parties. My Chil[n] can have no acquaintance but among Meth[s] and yet they will be inexperienced, not knowing who is right or who is wrong. &c —— In whatever Station, All men are in some sense dependant on each other, as well as on God. I strive to take as little anxious thought about these things as I can; but still we cannot wholly drive away these thoughts.

I mean to insert in the Magazine for Jan.y a Letter upon the Education of Children, written by one of the late Popes, whose letters are now in English and are very excellent he was called the protestant Pope; but I believe the Jesuits poisoned him. He seems to be a man of great sense and candour. —— Farewell. Our love to all friends — J. C.

My Dear sister Dec.r 6th 1791

I rec.d yours last night, and thank you and the rest of my friends for your sympathy and your prayers. That is all you can do for me, and it is some consolation to think that we have friends who feel for us, and enter into our case. I have been fully in the fire for upwards of two months; but my only trust is in Jehovah who will bring me thro' some way or other. There is something new starting up every day. I suppose you have heard something of a dispute between the L—s and Dr W—d concerning writing the life of Mr W— The L—s have got printed letters about it; It is a puzzling case to the people about this affair. My situation is truly critical. I strive to keep as quiet as possible, and not to interfere on either sides; only I am dragged in forcibly in some respects; and when I wish to stand still, the L.s look upon me with a jealous eye, as if I was not hearty in their cause. I strive to look as calmly as I can at both sides, according to the little light I have, and I think both ~~sides~~ are partly right and partly wrong; and neither of them in a good spirit at present, tho' they think otherwise. I had no human being to consult with, therefore I was cut off from any other resource than flying to God in Secret, to direct me. The views I had after prayer were these. This affair will do much hurt in this society as well as other places. I believed God disapproved of both parties, and that Mr W—y if he could speak to them, would bid them cease the contest, and write nothing about him, for his own writings were sufficient to give a history of him. Though I love books as well as any man; yet I had rather all the books in England was burned than one soul lost, or turned out of the way, which is likely always to be the case where is contention among religious people. — I foresaw all that has since come to pass, and more than is yet come to pass we live in perilous times; and tho' 'tis said by some "we should not prophecy evil" yet a prudent man forseeth evil. I fore see evil, but I know not where to hide myself, therefore I must stand still, and wait for the salvation of GOD. I cannot help sometimes looking at what will become of my poor Child.n when I am gone; I mean as to spirituals; for as to their temporals I think little about it; but this also I must leave to GOD. Did he not take care of me and my father's house when we knew him not? away then doubts, and unbelieving fears! Let me trust a faithful GOD with myself and mine. I can feel for you concerning T— but that is all I can do. If we do our part then let us leave our children to GOD, and he will do his. GOD has done great things for me even in a temporal sense. I have cast myself and family into the hands of Him that feedeth the ravens I am resolved not to hurt my Conscience for either parties. C— and M— are now going to enter a law suit in Chancery against W— to make him give up some papers in his hands. I expect to be called to give my Oath as an evidence against Dr W— in that case. I shall tell the truth as far as I know it.

Notwithstanding all these things, I still have great hopes that you and I and all my dear friends will meet at last where no storms can reach us. Amen! ——— J C

My dear Sister

Feby 11th 1792

I recd yours of the 17th of Jan: I am greatly exercised in my mind from day to day; yet the Lord does wonderfully support me, and I am striving to act according to the best light I have, and endeavouring to have as little to do with either party as I can, and keep mostly at home, to avoid altercation. I often think it is best for them who knows little of these things. in order to profit by hearing. I must own I may mistake and perhaps think too hardly of others, not knowing all their motives for acting; & others may perhaps judge me, and think me wrong in many things. Such shortsighted creatures are we! There will always be causes of stumbling among the professors of religion; as long as the present constitution of things last. When Christ comes, he will restore all things to order, and govern his church with impartiality. May his kingdom come, and his universal reign be established in the earth! It is very difficult for those who are much engaged in the government of the Church, and have ~~too~~ so many things, partly of a temporal or political nature to attend to, to retain the life of God in the souls. This was the case with ——. Some indeed must attend to it. — but those who are at a great distance in the country are best off, tho' they may have trials enough in other respects. It would be difficult to give you a full Idea of the matter in dispute here; as each party have a part of the truth, and those in the country have only got one side of the question; and you know one story is good, till another is told. You are right in your thoughts concerning the disputes that may arise among parties, to have as little to do as we can with either; and then both will be displeased, but we can't help it. To stand neutral is often looked upon as wrong by some. but as I said before it is not easy to see where truth lies, for often the truth and error lie near, each other. —— Brot R—. has his trials in various ways as well as others. We must all be exercised in our different spheres, in order to purge out this dross that cleaves to us. Oh! 'tis a great work, cutting work, circumcising work. but it is necessary work, and God him self must effect it. The cross meets us daily in ten thousand different shapes and forms. It is still grievous & opposite to flesh and blood. but we must take it up, if we would wear the crown. It is all mercy that we are disappointed in the things here, lest we should be so far infatuated as to think of settling beneath the skies. I endeavour to puzzle myself as little as I can about my children, for it will do me no good. What most grieves me is, I know not what Church to recommend to them to join. for I know not what the Meth—s will be in ten or twenty years hence. The falling away of a Church is gradual, and therefore not easily perceived. I am less concerned about my children in temporals, than in other things; tho' perhaps few have been more tried in this respect also than I have been. But I have seen the hand of the Lord so wonderfully in providing for me and mine, that I dare not doubt a moment. I wish I had as strong faith in other respects. I felt much for you all about that daughter of J—. But you have done your parts I believe, and must leave her to God. perhaps she may ~~by~~ be brought to him by afflictions of her own making.

The news here for a week past has been chiefly about the king and queen of France, who attempted to make their escape out of this kingdom, towards Germany; but were discovered on their way and brought back to Paris; and will now be kept close prisoners. That kingdom will very likely become a field of blood. I think I see the hand of Providence in all these things. It is our duty to attend to the revolutions and changes that are going forward in the earth; that we may in some measure trace out the fulfilling of the prophecies. He is surely making way for his own kingdom. I send herewith my prophecy concerning the king of France, written just three years ago.

It is to be feared there will be troubles ~~here~~ here too before long. there are many restless spirits who are stirring up the people against the Govern^t. as they did in America. One of these, who wrote at that time in Amer^a. has lately written a Book, which is spreading the seeds of a revolution in these kingdoms also. It has been reprinted in Dublin, and is doing harm in the North among the Presbyterians; as they are as restless or more so than the papists. the Revolutionists here (as they are called) intend to have a feast on the 14th inst; to celebrate the Aera of the Revolution in France; and it is feared there will be riots. therefore I hear to day that some Troops are ordered to be in readiness near Town, in case of disturbance. If a revolution should take place here in our day the Meth-^ts would be puzzled how to act (as they were in America) and compelled to declare themselves for one side or other; which would be a trying circumstance. A woman who studies Astrology, told another acquaintance of mine that some great change in the Gov^t. will take place in less a year & half; that tho' our king will be living, he will not have much of the power of a king. This is the case at present with the king of France. I never paid any regard to Astrologers; but from what I see and hear, we may expect that something of this will come to pass before many years. I hope they will not use our good king and Queen ill, for they set a pattern of morality and domestic economy to the great folks, if they would follow it.—

Give our love to all friends. Farewell — Yours — J. C.

My Dear Sister — Sepr. 8th 1791

I rec^d. your Letter in due time. We had a very good time at Conference,* better than the fears of the people, and even of some of the preachers themselves. I had but little to do, except when the Mag. came to be spoken of. I proposed a plan for carrying it on in future, by a Committee of several of the preachers who are to collect materials. We hope it will be ^rather better for the time to come.

It is well that the preachers are as well agreed as they are, for it is almost impossible to get a large body of men to be of one judgement, even tho' they may be pious and well meaning. Such is our imperfection in this present State. We may expect that one now and then will separate from the rest; but it seems as if they are more affraid to do so, because they see that those who have gone away from us can do very little, and soon lose their influence. I suppose there will be gradual alterations in some things; but perhaps nothing great in our day. We know on whose Shoulder the government of the Church rests, and he will take care of it, and will overrule the councels of men.—

I cannot help ~~seeing~~ but see some things among Methodists which are grievious; but I endeavour to make myself as easy as I can, when I cannot ~~help~~ prevent them.

* The first Conference after Mr W—s Death where there were preachers from every circuit in the 3 kingdoms.—

The people (that is the sensible ones) and the preachers seem to be jea-
lous of each other's power; and it is natural for man to seek after power.
The preachers think if they were to be directed or governed by some of the
principle people (like the ruling Elders among the presbyterians)
there would soon be an end of Methodism; as they would be afraid to speak
freely, to reprove, or remove disorderly members. On the other hand the
discerning part of the people see that men who have been raised from
low life become very insolent and overbearing, and treat with a degree
of cruelty those who oppose them. I see there is much to be said on
both sides; and it is a point not yet settled where the ballance of power
should be lodged, or how much each paty should have in the government
and management of the whole. Mr. Wesley would never allow the peo-
ple any share in the government; and the preachers have learned from
him. But so long as both parties retained their simplicity and love
they would bear a great deal with each other: for love suffereth long. —
It is to be feared the work in many places is only superficial, and even
many of the preachers have not yet much experimental knowledge;
yet still we must make some allowances, and hope that both preachers
and people will get more knowledge as well as grace. How can much be
expected from young country lads, who have read little, and seen little of
either men or things? They read the Bible chiefly, and that is well; but it
is necessary also to get all the other helps they can both from conversing
with old experienced men and from other books. They have, we suppose
the Spirit of God to direct them; yet still they are to look for the guidance
of the spirit in the use of means. And we see every day more and more
instances of men differing in judgement in some things, tho' they may
both have the Spirit of God, or be very pious. It is true they cannot be both
right in things wherein they differ; but it is very difficult often for even
sincere pious persons to know how far he is led by the Spirit of God.
Every day affords proofs of men differing from themselves, at different peri-
ods; and yet at those different periods they were confident they were led
by the Spirit of God. There is a Counsellor Parker here, who has preach-
ed among the Metho.ts for many years; who is a very pious man, and was a great
Advocate for Meth.m and for Mr. Wesley, whom I esteemed highly for his
conduct. I was informed that he has lately preached at what is called the new
Jerusalem Church, where they hold Baron Swedenburg's doctrine;
and I am told they deny the divinity of Christ and consequently the doc-
trine of the attonement. Two others of our preachers had joined them some
years ago. These things seem very wonderful. Another (Squire Brack-
enbury) a man of fortune who has been among us and is still, and I think one
of the most pious in the connection is, they say, or has drank into the o-
pinions of the Mystics. I cannot tell you what these are, for I know very
little about them; but believe them to be very pious people. Many of
them sprung up and continued in the Church of Rome, tho' they did not
agree with her in her superstitions and many of her errors. I sent you a
short extract of Madam Guion's opinions which I think highly of. ——
There are many uneasy Spirits here as well as with you who wish
for a revolution in government, ~~[illegible]~~ as well as in the Church, just as it is in
France. Tho' there may be faults in many of the great men in govern-nt
and also in the Church Clergy: yet I doubt these very men who make
such a noise ~~[illegible]~~ would just be as bad as they if they were in their places. And
it seems to me they have just as much ambition, and only want to get some of the ho-
nours and riches of the wo[rld]

The news here for a week past has been chiefly about the King and queen of France, who attempted to make their escape out of this kingdom, towards Germany; but were discovered on their way and brought back to Paris; and will now be kept close prisoners. That kingdom will very likely become a field of blood. I think I see the hand of Providence in all these things. It is our duty to attend to the revolutions and changes that are going forward in the earth; that we may in some measure trace out the fulfilling of the prophecies. He is surely making way for his own kingdom. I send herewith my prophecy concerning the king of France, written just three years ago.

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Give our love to all friends. Farewell— Yours— J. C.

My Dear Sister Sep.r 8th 1791

I rec.d your Letter in due time. We had a very good time at Conference,* better than the fears of the people and even of some of the preachers themselves. I had but little to do, except when the Mag. came to be spoken of. I proposed a plan for carrying it on in future, by a Committee of several of the preachers who are to collect materials. We hope it will be rather better for the time to come.

It is well that the preachers are as well agreed as they are, for it is almost impossible to get a large body of men to be of one judgement, even tho' they may be pious and well meaning. Such is our imperfection in this present state. We may expect that one now and then will separate from the rest; but it seems as if they are more affraid to do so because they see that those who have gone away from us can do very little, and soon lose their influence. I suppose there will be gradual alterations in some things; but perhaps nothing great in our day. We know on whose Shoulder the government of the Church rests, and he will take care of it, and will overrule the councels of men.—

I cannot help ~~seeing~~ but see some things among Methodists which are grievous; but I endeavour to make myself as easy as I can, when I cannot ~~help~~ prevent them.

* The first Conference after Mr W—s Death where there were preachers from every circuit in the 3 kingdoms.—

The people (that is the sensible ones) and the preachers seem to be jea:
lous of each other's power; and it is natural for man to seek after power.
The preachers think if they were to be directed or governed by some of the
principle people (like the ruling Elders among the presbyterians)
there would soon be an end of Methodism; as they would be afraid to speak
freely, to reprove, or remove disorderly members. On the other hand the
discerning part of the people see that men who have been raised from
low life become very insolent and overbearing, and treat with a degree
of cruelty those who oppose them. I see there is much to be said on
both sides; and it is a point not yet settled where the ballance of power
should be lodged, or how much each paty should have in the government
and management of the whole. Mr. Wesley would never allow the peo:
ple any share in the government; and the preachers have learned from
him. But so long as both parties retained their simplicity and love
they would bear a great deal with each other: for love suffereth long. —
It is to be feared the work in many places is only superficial, and even
many of the preachers have not yet much experimental knowledge;
yet still we must make some allowances and hope that both preachers
and people will get more knowledge as well as grace. How can much be
expected from young country lads, who have read little, and seen little of
either men or things? They read the Bible chiefly, and that is well; but it
is necessary also to get all the other helps they can both from conversing
with old experienced men and from other books. They have, we suppose
the Spirit of God to direct them; yet still they are to look for the guidance
of the spirit in the use of means. And we see every day more and more
instances of men differing in judgment in some things, tho' they may
both have the Spirit of God, or be very pious. It is true the cannot be both
right in things wherein they differ; but it is very difficult often for even
sincere pious persons to know how far he is led by the Spirit of God.
Every day affords proofs of men differing from themselves, at different peri:
ods; and yet at these different periods they were confident they were led
by the Spirit of God. There is a Counsellor Parker here, who has preach
ed among the Metho.ts for many years; who is a very pious man, and was a great
Advocate for Meth.m and for Mr. Wesley, whom I esteemed highly for his
conduct. I was informed that he has lately preached at what is called the new
Jerusalem Church where they hold Baron Swedenburg's doctrine;
and I am told they deny the divinity of Christ and consequently the doc-
trine of the attonement. Two others of our preachers had joined them some
years ago. These things seem very wonderful. Another (Squire Brack-
enbury) a man of fortune who has been among us and is still, and I think one
of the most pious in the Connection is, they say, or has drank into the o:
pinions of the Mystics. I cannot tell you what these are, for I know very
little about them; but believe them to be very pious people. Many of
them sprung up and continued in the Church of Rome, tho' they did not
agree with her in her superstitions and many of her errors. I sent you a
short extract of Madam Guion's opinions which I think highly of. ——
There are many uneasy Spirits here as well as with you who wish
for a revolution in government, ~~state~~ as well as in the Church, just as it is in
France. Tho' there may be faults in many of the great men in govern-
ment and also in the Church Clergy: yet I doubt these very men who make
such a noise would just be as bad as they if they were in their places. And
it seems to me they have just as much ambition, and only want to get some of the ho:
nours and riches of the wor

I have got two Letters from Captain Saunderson, and have answered them. He seems zealous, and alive, He says he exhorted lately at Cavan, Belturbet and Clones. What he will turn out neither himself nor any one else can yet see. He stands on slippery ground and knows little yet of the devices of Satan, nor of what Man is. However, so far it seems a work of GOD. If he gets wisdom, perhaps he may be of some use to his relations, tho' at present there seems little likelihood of it, as they look upon him as a kind of reprobate, and do not yet clearly see the plan of salvation. Does he seem sensible, and has tolerable natural gifts? Let the Meth^ts deal wisely towards him, and yet tenderly, and make some allowance for his manner of education. This caution is necessary; because many of the low-bred Meth^ts do not make proper allowance for those who have been bred in a higher station than themselves. But Education and different stations in life make very great difference even tho' they may all have a Christian experience. —— I hope you are struggling through, and endeavouring to make the blest ~~shore~~ port where all the ships company meet. It is a tempestuous sea on which we are tossed; but perhaps every blast is driving us nearer the harbour. Farewell:

Give our love to all friends. —— Your Affect^e Bro^r J. C.

My Dear Sister July 4th 1791

I rec^d yours of the 22^d of June I had sent you a few lines a little before. — I think you grieve more about T. — than you need. He is in the hands of Him who called you, and guarded you when you knew him not. It is undoubtedly natural for us to be anxious for our children's wellfare, and it is our duty; yet still we may lay needless burdens upon ourselves. Men are ever going to one extreme or other. 'Tis true the greatest number are too careless about the souls of their children, as well as their own. The most of what we can do for them is to pray for them, to restrain them from outward evil, and to bring them under the word or means as much as we can: but I think some well-meaning parents has erred in forcing that upon them which is contrary to their nature. Let any person of experience recollect what he felt within himself, before conversion, when he heard good people speaking much of religion; and pressing it upon them? And can they wonder if others who have not experienced the sweets of religion shrink from it and feel it irksome or unpleasant? The more I consider this matter the more I converse with sensible people about it, the more I am at a loss to act myself, or to direct others. I am more and more convinced that no one general ~~rule~~ method will do for all, seeing I find such difference even in those of the same parents. An awe of the parent should be early impressed, and let them know that the parents will should be ~~early~~ a law unto them. Beating them often is not the best way; it only hardens them. beating them lightly is nearly as bad. When they are corrected, they should be made to feel, so as they may remember it a long while, and to put them in terror, But I'm convinced we want much wisdom in this point, and must say, "Who is sufficient for these things?"

My wife thinks her children better than most of those she sees, and thinks I am too severe. They are kept hitherto from many outward evils, but I am not content; and I often tell her it is a bad argument to say that others are worse than we are. I grow less and less uneasy or anxious in these as well as most matters every day; but I fear it does not arise from grace. I am jealous of myself; I fear I am not exerting myself as much as I ought; which arises partly from a sense of my weakness, and partly perhaps by catching the Spirit of others who are in the same way. We are apt (like Adam) to lay the fault obliquely or indirectly upon others. I am sure that GOD is very kind when he afflicts, or disappoints us in our pursuits, and how often is he obliged (so to speak) to lay on his rod again & again to keep or bring us near to himself. The more we know ourselves, the more we must say — "What is man!" — You must strive to possess your soul in patience; whilst at the same time you give all diligence both for yourself and others in temporals and spirituals. I hope you will use Sister N— well among all, for she has had her share of troubles, tho' perhaps some may not see it. I see every day instances of people who have no children, yet have very great trouble either with relations or some whom they have adopted, who hang upon them, and behave very ill, and break their hearts. I know religious parents here who has great distress with their profligate children. &c — I know a good man, one of our people, who is now obliged to put his wife in a madhouse for drunkenness, after having borne with her for years, and she had pawned and sold almost every thing. Oh! what misery do I see and hear of daily, and yet how little do I know of what is in the world or even in this City. Indeed this City is a picture of the world at large. Here may be seen people, I believe from every part of the world, various in their dress, their language, their complexion, their manners, dispositions, yea, in every thing and I suppose all kinds of vice under the sun is practiced here; and yet I may say I see or hear of very little of it. Here are all religions or opinions, & here every thing that any part of the earth produces is sold, or to be seen. I know nothing comparatively of all these things, nor do I trouble myself about them. I scarcely wonder at any thing or at men, for if I should begin to reason or puzzle myself about them, I should be soon lost in a labyrinth and be ready to doubt almost of my own existance. It is a world of confusion & disorder, let us look for, and hasten to a better! —

Many have fears about the Church (that denomination of it to which we belong) but I don't find my mind very uneasy about it. I am sure the Government is upon the Shoulders of one who cannot err. He had and will have an universal Church; tho' there may be various changes in different parts of it in some respects. With respect to the Meth.^s I hope a plan will be struck out for the good of the whole. Most of the preachers and people desire to abide by the plan of itinerancy, but they must vary the mode of government (as their visible head is gone) and lodge it in a number either more or less. They seem to think it best to divide these kingdoms into Districts, each District to contain a certain number of Circuits, in which one preacher must preside for the year, and then give an acc.^t to Conference. The Leaders & people in Cornwall think this is not the best way, and want to share a part of the Government themselves. this will not readily be granted to them, & should both parties contend much for this, it will hurt the cause; but I hope better things. Many circular letters have passed thro' these kingdoms since Mr Wesley's death, beside private ones. I dare say the postage of all that have passed among Meth.^ts since then could not be less than a hundred pounds, perhaps more. —

and some more of my friends thro' many Storms; and what were we or our father's house, when we set out in life & were we not ignorent and helpless, and yet he has brought us thus far on our way thro' the howling desart. It is true we have been unfaithful, and have not improved our talents as we should have done, yet, still I hope we will very shortly get into port, and all some how or other get safe to land. —

The observation you make about rapturous joy is just, and an observation made by Dr. Whitehead in his sermon yesterday seems to confirm it. He said that in joy there is so much pleasing that there is much of animal nature in it, and people like to indulge it because it is pleasing. The understanding, the affections and the will must be all brought in subjection to, and given up to God. His text was — "purifying their hearts by faith." He observed that by the heart here we are to understand, the understanding, the will, and the affections. Faith, here, he said, was a living principle in the soul, actuating and regulating all the faculties and powers, having Christ for its object, and bringing all in subjection to him. — I am upon the whole much better, tho' I am worn to a skeleton, and my faculties, especially my memory, much impaired. I have gone out for a fortnight past, and done some service. If we are perfected by sufferings or by any other means, all will be well — One reason that a gracious God has spared me a little longer here, is to purge out the dross that still remains, or to try me if I will bring forth any fruit another year. Oh! how long has he spared the cumberer of the ground! I have not time now to write as much as I wish, as I have other letters to write, and as we are likely soon to have a great stir here, as Mr. Wesley's life seems near a close; perhaps he may be dead before I finish this letter. He was a little better yesterday morning, but I hear he is worse this morning. He has had several shakes this winter, tho' he braved it out still, but he must yield at last. The 19th I was with him, and read some papers to him. I ask'd for more Sermons. He said he had none, and would write no more. It is very remarkable that the last, which I am now printing in May & June Mag. was not the last written, and has been in my possession I think a year and a half; but as it bears no date, as all his others do, I kept it, tho' without design. The Text is Psal: 73. 19, according to the Translation in your prayer book, which he always preferred to that in your bibles at present, for that in the prayer book he says is more antient than the other & better. Tho' the Text refers chiefly to the wicked; yet he speaks of the nature of a dream; and compares human life to a dream. He was very indifferent on Sund. the 20th did not go out, but on Mond. he was better, and went on a visit nine miles out of Town. He came home on tuesday and preached that night, but could scarcely be heard. On Wednesday he went on another visit about 18 miles out of Town, and came home very ill on friday morning. He has been since in a sort of stupid State, and can say but few words at a time. There will undoubtedly be a great shaking for some time; but perhaps some things after a while will be better. As to myself I shall interfere as little as possible, and as my life is so far advanced, I would willingly spend the remainder of my days in peace. I suppose there will be new regulations and the preachers will be ordained by degrees. You must all pray to God for directions. Strive to save your own souls at all events. I find since I wrote the former part of this Letter Mr. Wesley grows weaker and weaker. —

Great events are expected this year in the political world. A pamphlet is published to shew by calculations that the time alluded to Dan. 12. 13. 14. is fulfilled. &c. Some of the Jews have had meetings to consider the contents of this pamphlet. GOD will surely fulfill all that he has prophesied, in his own time. — Tuesday even 5 oclock —

I deferred sending this yesterday, that I might give you the following acc.t I have been just now at Mr. Wesley's house; but could not get in. I was told he had breathed his last about half past four. His Sun has set, Let us be ready; and work while it is day. I don't expect to write again for some time. Farewell! — May we all meet above, arrayed in white rayment My love to &c. Yours — J. C.

June 21st 1791

My dear Sister

As I have been much occupied in various things for some months past, I had little time to write to my friends; but as I find every day brings with it fresh business, so we ought to do now whatever our hand findeth to do, for we know not what to morrow may bring forth. I have great reason to bless GOD for his sparing mercy, GOD has taken much pains with our family to correct us in order to keep us somewhat near him, and yet after all how prone are we to wander from him! I had a preacher, Mr. Wright, who died at my house in the middle of May. He was a plain good man, died very happy, and left a young widow, whom he married here last Sep.r He was a highlander by birth; but had spent many years in the army in Ireland, where I believe he was converted. There is a pretty acc.t of his first wife in the Mag: for Feb.y 1790 I believe. I shall give a short one of himself in some months hence. We had a great bustle here at Mr. Wesley's funeral, on acc.t of the Mob. We feared there would be dreadful work, & therefore buried him about ½ past five in the morning. The sermon was preached at ten, many could not get in. It was also feared that they w.d have stole his body, and they therefore watched the burying ground, I believe, for a fortnight. — Lady Huntingdon died a few days ago. She was near as old as Mr. Wesley; and had done great good in her way in her day, by building many Chapels, and paying the Ministers who officiated in them. I know not how she has settled them; but it is thought there will be a greater revolution among her people than among us. I hope our affairs will be settled by degrees on a good plan. A considerable time ago I got Letters from the M.cD—s. W.m sent me his journal, He has had great hardships, and sometimes ill, not able to keep his appointments. great trials in his mind, and ready often to leave the work, tho' upon the whole it appears that he is made useful; tho' his preaching and trials is as it were chequered. So good is GOD, often to give a thorn in the flesh, or to hide from us the work done lest we should be puffed up. It seems to me that the work goes on in general in America, tho' he often speaks of meeting backsliders, and being in cold dead societies. They meet most opposition from the Calvinistic Baptists —

and constantly to serve! —— with respect to our children, God
gives us to see our weakness, and we are constrained to give them up into
his hands. He alone can change the heart, and subdue the will. Let us do
our parts. Endeavour to restrain them from outward evil, give them some
instruction, and pray for them, but above all let us walk with God our=
selves, and set them an example, and he will remember them when
our heads are laid in the dust. I see more and more difficulty every day
in the training up of children, and tho' much has been written and said
upon the subject, I am not satisfied. Many of those who wrote or spoke
were not enough experienced, and when a person speaks from theory, or
points out what ought to be done, it has very little weight with me. I see
many of the child=n of Meth=ts here, now grown up, who have a greater
aversion to religion, and Meth=n than if they had never heard of it. I
know not where to lay the blame, perhaps different causes have contributed.
Some will not allow it to be said that the children of Metho=ts are worse
than others; but I think many of them have been made so by the very
methods which they recommended. The parents taught them hymns
and a great many things when young; and did this so much, that it
became a burden, and as they grew up, not having yet obtained con-
verting grace, the aversion increased; or they felt it a drudgery.
Besides. often if a certain person was expected at the house, they were
taught to have something to repeat, or to behave so and so; and perhaps
they saw alterations in the house and their parents for that day, which
was not at other times; and tho' this was all good, and what ought to be, yet I
fear it tended to make them hypocrites, or to make them believe that religion
was nothing but show: and perhaps the conduct of their parents contributed
more than all to this. I don't say that this was always the case, but I have some=
times thought that some of these things were the cause. I made the same ob=
servation long ago concerning the old presbyterians, who were good peo=
ple; many of their children were worse than many around them; for tho'
they had some of the form of religion, they were as ungodly as any. ——
nothing but true inward religion can change the heart, and enable them
to bear the fruit of holiness in their life and conversation. I don't think
my children are worse than others; but I know not what they will be when
they grow up; but I don't think I shall live to see it; perhaps this is best so,
for I see some parents ready to break their hearts, as they can not govern
their children when they are grown up. I know a family, whose eldest son
went into all manner of rioting, and bad living, out at nights, and would often come
home in the morning almost naked, being stript of his cloathing &c by bad peo=
ple. they were obliged to pay great debts of his, besides allowing him a very
good weekly allowance. they were afraid of their lives and house, and were
at length obliged to get an order to have him confined in a hired jail for seve=
ral months. They have now taken him out, and have bought a commissi=
on for him, and are sending him to the East Indias. ——
It has been a time of affliction with me since two days before Christ=mas
There was a dreadful storm of lightning and rain. at five in the morning
I rose, had a good deal of fatigue the remainder of the day, and caught cold which
begins with a fever and a great pain in my head. yet in this state I was oblig'd
to go out on Christ=s day, had most of the service to perform at the new Chapel,
went out the four succeeding days to read the prayers, tho' scarcely able to speak,

or stand. On Thurs.^y^ the Assistant came to me, as I was no longer able to go out telling me Mr. — W was much displeased because I had not gone every morning at five to administer the Sacrement at one of the Chapels, which is a custom he had during the 12 days of Christ.^s^ My head has been in a most dreadful way with pain all round, and most in the back part the Doc.^r^ advised a blister to the pole of the neck. This I think has done some good. My cough was violent, so that sometimes I was convulsed with it, and thought a blood vessel would break. The flegm is difficult to get up, I got little sleep. All these things coming together upon a worn constitution left nothing but the bones staring covered with skin. My breath is short, and my lungs in part affected. Whether I shall be called away now I know not; but upon the whole I am better. To all these things were added great exercises of mind, and thoughts of my poor family. 'tis to be feared considering the state of affairs here that there must be confusion and divisions When Mr Wesley is removed, which we look for every day. Most of the Preachers with you and in many other places know little of these things, and it is best for themselves. You see there is great need of faith, to trust God with all; I can trust him; but the more I know of man, the less I can trust him. Some would be ready to say I look too much at the bad side; perhaps I do, but I cannot help it. Mr W — grows very feeble, and can scarcely see any at all now.

I am glad to hear of the progress the gospel is making in ~~new~~ new places in your country. Those simple zealous young men will do good. and the old professors will be stirred up by the young converts. The old professors should hold up the hands of those young Preachers tho' they may not have great experience; at least as long as they continue humble. You must take great care not to hurt your Sister N. in any respect, certainly all the family owe her much, for all her care and sympathy. I can say but little about T. you must strive to take little thought for tomorrow. Pray much for him. He is in the Lord's hands: perhaps he may be a shining light, when you and I are sleeping in the dust. — Amen! Give our love to all friends.

London Jany 12 - 1791

Farewell. let us pray for one another

J. C.

Feby 20.th 1791

My Dear Sister

I am very thankful to you and the rest of my dear friends for your kind and encouraging Letters. You endeavour to give me consolation amidst the many exercises with which I pass on in my pilgrimage. You have all enough yourselves to bear; perhaps far greater than mine. Trials are greater or less in proportion as we feel them; and I am sure every one will meet as much as he can bear, or as will be needful for him, as a means to his purification for another life. My thoughts about my family are far less than what you might expect, especially about their temporal concerns (tho' in that respect I have as much reason as any body, as they are so young &.) but I have more fears about the dangers thro' which they must pass, even in the religious world. I cannot be with them as a pilot to forewarn them of the dangerous rocks on either hand. But, in this also I must leave them to the great Pilot, who can guide them better than me, and see their dangers more clearly. Yes I can, and will trust him; for he ~~has~~ hath not brought me,

My Dear Sister Oct.r: 4 – 1790

Every day brings new trials and fresh sorrows, and I see this will be the case with our family in a remarkable manner. If it answers the end to deaden us to this world, and draw us to fix our affections more intensely on the things of another world, so much the better. Each of us feel our own. but it is a mercy we can in some measure feel for each other: and I find very great consolation in sympathy. There is more in this than many are aware of. We feel the spirits of our friends tho' at a great distance, and we find we cannot unite with others, tho' they are very near us. We are more in the invisible world than many think or understand. This body which we carry about with us, tho' it is a curious frame, is only a shell, and a thin and brittle one too; and tho' the spirit is in one sense united to it, yet it cannot be confined by matter, or hindered from taking its course thro' walls, rocks, and even into the bowels of the Earth, as well as up to the starry heavens. Consider thought, how unconfined it is, and how our spirit seems to be all active in dreams, whilst the body seems insensible. This is one great proof of the immortality of the Soul. O what a wonderful Being is man, and who can explain himself, or demonstrate how the Soul and body are united. I felt greatly indeed at your acc.t of parting with sister G. as it brought to my mind my own with her. Yet I dare not doubt for a moment but she will be saved eternally; tho' she will go thro' great tribulation. I am not harrassed about the eternal salvation of any of our family, and yet I have no particular promise. And I am for some years more and more inclined to believe that more will be saved, than some are willing to allow. Now I think this thought does me no harm, nor does it at all indulge me in a false security, nor would I encourage others in it. There has been a wonderful stir in Dublin, which is represented in different lights by different persons; but upon the best acc.t that I can learn, there was much irregularity, tho' perhaps there was some good done. I suppose you heard Mr. C–k the Assistant there, I know him a little and like him much. Some letters are now passing between him and me on the subject of this new science, as he has sent an account to Mr. W– for the Magazine of the bad effects of it at Bristol by a man at Bath, who pretends to practice it, and has advanced strange opinions contrary to Christianity. But the man, who read his lectures to me, has nothing to do with such, but quite the contrary. Many no doubt will strive to find out and form a system according to their own Ideas, and will therefore bring reproach upon that which is right. Just so it was with religion in every age, and no wonder, for the Enemy is still sowing tares among the wheat. I know we are to be on our guard, amidst the various opinions that now abound in the world, and I am not apt to be hasty in any thing. I had my objections and suspicions about this science as well as many other pious Ministers, and the man invited us to his lectures gratis, in order to satisfy us there was nothing bad in it; and if we saw any thing dangerous in it he would give us leave to publish it to the world. —

My maid fell asleep in Jesus the second inst: about four in the afternoon without a sigh or groan. In her last gasp, she seemed almost to laugh. I had left her about half an hour before being obliged to go to preach. At my very parting her, she told me as well as the

flegm would permit, that there seemed to be a company of friends waiting for her. She was remarkably patient and resigned, and loath to give any trouble. Tho' she had never made any great profession of religion; yet her conduct might shame many who speak high things. She was exceeding modest, and had improved much in her understanding. She was above doing any thing mean, and was honest to the last degree. She told me that about three months ago the sting and fear of death was taken away. About three weeks before she died, when I was asking her about her state, she said she was now disengaged from all below; but that my daughter Allice was the last thing she could give up. I could not stand this, for my heart had like to burst. I find myself tottering on my limbs; so that I don't expect to survive this winter, as many things have all come together to crush both my body and spirit. I never had such conflicts in my mind as I have had for two months past. I have not time to say much more now. Time is very short, and I would wish to say a great deal.— You have a right to love N— and you will do so. She has been a kind sister to you all, and has suffered much on all your accounts. And I trust, as God has kept you joined in affection hitherto you will never be parted. I cannot direct you as to temporals at present; but I trust by taking advice with other friends, you will hit upon some way to struggle on thro' this howling wilderness. Give my love to your husd. I trust you will help, not hinder one another in the narrow road. Oh! that we may all meet in the haven of eternal repose.— Our love to all, as if named. My affection to you all is rather increasing every day. Pray for me and mine.

Farewell! J. C.

My Dear Sister

Tho' it be grievious to hear of the afflictions of our friends, yet still it is some satisfaction to know in what state or circumstances they are. Tribulation, crosses, afflictions, and disapointments are the lot of the followers of Christ, yet we must beware of fixing these as a mark of our sonship. Many suffer here in consequence of their own folly or sin, and perhaps it is not always easy to determine whether the sufferings be the chastenings of a Father, or the corrections of a Judge. I know we may err by looking too long at the thing in either of these points of view. However there is no room for ~~either of~~ us to complain on either hand. Why should a living man complain? I have sometimes thought (and I believe Mr Fletcher has something to the same purpose in his writings) that tho' sin is pardoned and the penitent believer is accepted thro' the beloved, yet he suffers here for his past transgressions. I don't know whether this is right or not; I only mention it as a thought which sometimes occurred.—

I still have many and great conflicts of mind, besides afflictions in my person and family. But I fear I do not make as good use of them as I should. Sometimes they drive me to the Throne, but not so often or fervently as they should, and I see how merciful the Lord is in correcting that I may be reminded to fly to him. O how unfaithful, and ungreatful are we, and how prone to wander from him, whom we ought always to love.

My dear Sister

Aug. 16. 1790

I rec.d your Letter of the 26th July in due time; but hurry of many things prevented my answering it directly. As to that made the chief subject of it, I can say but little, as I believe I said all I could in my last. And as I suppose the affair is terminated before this time, it would be needless to say any thing now. I sympathize with you in the conflicts and afflictions which you have gone thro', and I fear you have more to go thro' still; yet if they are sanctified to you in the end, all will be well. The time is coming when they shall neither marry, nor be given in marriage. Let us look forward to that time, and prepare for it, by living now as far as we may to the glory of GoD. We have but a short time of probation for an eternal State, and the most of that short time ~~of probation~~ is elapsed with us. It is well that we are not to stay long here in this poor wilderness, exposed to inconveniences of various kinds, and to be attacked on every hand by beasts of prey. I am pretty well in body for a few months past, but have lately had very severe conflicts of mind, which has made me sleepless and restless. I did not go to ~~the~~ Conference, one reason was my family were so afflicted that I could not well leave them. I hear things went on pretty well at Con.ce; yet I cannot but lament many evils which I see spreading, and others likely to take place which in my judgement will tend to divide the Metho-st Body, consequently hurt the cause of true religion. I have been thinking a good deal of late, that it is very likely I shall be separated some way or other, tho' I have long borne a great deal and strive to prevent it. I hope I shall never be separated in Spirit from all those that I believe sincere; but I cannot help thinking that many ~~not~~ are the greatest favourites at Court, who are not the most upright; and these carry themselves with great insolence, and have driven many honest men away from us. It is in vain to puzzle ourselves about these things, such have been in every age; but let us strive to save our own souls. However the thought of one's children cleaves very close to us; and what puzzles me most is to advise them what religious community to join. They will be tossed on a tumultuous Sea, not knowing what port to make to. I have always endeavoured to leave them to GoD entirely, which I must do in the end. He has kept me and provided for me these fifty years. I have no anxious care about their temporal concerns; but I am more afraid to entrust them with religious professors than even with the people of the world, as they may be the more easily deceived. They may not have discernment to distinguish the wheat from the chaff till they have bought it by dear experience as I have done.

The three young children are in the hooping cough. Ann has been in a poor way some months with her face and her eyes so inflamed I thought she should have lost them. She is now better. All these things serve to exercise my wife; she was also ill a month or more with a cold. My Maid still lingers on. But thinks she has got some benefit by these strange means, which I mentioned in a former letter. Whether she will recover is very doubtful; as she was so far gone. As I have heard much of the effects and seen some of them of this new science as it is called, my prejudice was gradually removed; and as I got a few hints from one

who was not confined to secrecy. and as I could rely on Mr. Broadbent's word, (tho' he was not at liberty to tell me what he knew) I at length consented to attend a man near me last week who reads lectures upon the principle of it. This new thing was a great mystery to me at first. they prescribe no medicine, nor touch the patient. They work, or move their fingers much in a certain way; which to one that knows it not, looks like a charm; yet they declare it is no such thing, but that they proceed upon a certain principle. they can attract the disorder to themselves, or feel the sensations of the patient, and can tell what his disorder is. this I had a proof of two days ago; whilst I was sitting with this Preacher who has got the principle the after two or three minutes moving his fingers in his way he said I had my head very bad and a shooting pain all thro' it; which was actually the case. The chief Doc.r says it is not new; but it was suppressed 200 years ago, as if ~~makes against~~ it was a kind of witchcraft; and the Physicians still cry it down because it makes against their trade. It is certain there are many things in natural Philosophy, whose principles are well understood, which would seem like legerdemain to the ~~the~~ vulgar who do not understand them. I now understand the principles on which it depends; but it will require much practice. Every one before they know it ridicule it, or look upon it as a kind of magic, but when they come to know it, they cannot but approve of it; and the more intelligent they are, the more they approve, and make a progress in it. There are many things in nature which ignorant persons will not believe, and cannot comprehend, and look upon them in a very bad light. Every human being have great powers if they knew it or knew how to exert them. This science (so called) is not contrary to religion, but helps to throw light on some passages of Scripture, and to account for many things which I did not understand before. It is substitute instead of medicine, so easy and with no pain or expence, no wonder the phisicians would cry it down. those well practised in this can influence as far as thought can go, and they must feel Sympathy. this will seem incredible to you. I never reject any thing hastily. Many pious people and Clergymen here have learned it, and recommend it to others I'm told many of the nobility both male and female are learning it for the sake of themselves and families, and to relieve the poor, and they are really doing good in giving them also a little money for their necessities. ——

"You say do not cast you off"— no I cannot, you are my sister in tribulation, and tribulation you must endure. But I trust He who hath supported you hitherto, will keep you from falling, and preserve you unto his heavenly kingdom. —

Farewell—

J— C—

I doubt not but Mrs West was saved, and that she died partly of a broken heart.
no doubt my last words to her, being a caution against him, often occurred to
her; and tho' he might have lulled her conscience for a while, yet when
she came near death and saw him in his true colours, she must have then
seen that I was her faithful friend. We must leave him to God, if he is
right so much the better. —— As to I—s family I can say little, but
it is clear they will be sufferers, wherever they go; perhaps it is necessary
and that nothing else would do. I believe many have been saved who died of a bro-
ken heart; but not all that died so. You see I have filled my paper with
some things which is not so profitable for you; we can therefore only
sympathize with one another. Yet, do not grieve on my acct. I trust
all will end well at last: and then sorrow and sighing will be done
away. — Farewell, Hope, and fight to the end. — Yours. — J. C.

Jany 9 1790.

This should have been inserted before the last.

My Dear Sister May 11th 1790

I was much affected at the recᵗ of your Letter yesterday, and tho' I now begin to write I know not what to say, or how to advise. Difficulties appear on every side. I feel sensibly for you, yet I cannot help you. When I consider all the difficulties which stared you in the face, and your situation in every respect, I do not wonder that your mind should be drawn hither and thither, and that you should be perplexed. I believe I said in a few words in my last all that I could say on the subject in question, yet I am sensible that it is not easy to break off an affair of this kind when it has gone so far. Some that have not fine feelings ~~may~~ do so; but in general it is not easy. As to several little circumstances ~~which~~ which might seem like the leadings of Providence, there is nothing more difficult to determine than this; neither are we much to depend on impressions on the mind, it is so difficult often to distinguish between the motions of the Holy Spirit, and the impressions of the evil one, or what may arise from our own nature. If our will inclines to any point, we are apt to construe many little things as favourable, and this gives still a greater bias to the will. Yet there is a danger on the other hand, lest we should pay no regard to the impressions which may be divine. It is no wonder that a person that considers him self well, and what man is at his best estate, should tremble, and seeing himself standing on such slippery ground, should cry mightily to God, "keep me from falling." — uphold me by thy right hand, lest I be a castaway. Surely I am weak, yea I am as nothing; but do thou be all in all to me, be thou my supporter, my God and my guide even unto Death." — I see clearly that whatever step you take, your way will be thro' tribulation, and so it is like to be with all our family; perhaps all this ~~was~~ necessary to keep us in the way, and it is well if it does. It will be all mercy if we are saved at last. However we are not without hope. Our own experience may encourage us. God hath upholden us in many dangers and difficulties, and he is still the same; but let us not reason on the wrong side, and say — "Yes, I know God is faithful; but I have been unfaithful, and I fear I shall grow more cold, or by some means grieve his spirit, so that he shall give me up" but this is taking thought for the morrow. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. — I just now looking into a Book (Quarles Emblems) met the following quotation from St. Augustine. "In the world, not to be grieved, not to be afflicted, not to be in danger, is impossible. — Behold, the world full of troubles; yet beloved, what if it were a pleasing world, how wouldst thou delight in her calms, that canst so well endure her storms!"

With respect to J. B. I suppose in the eyes of every one he seems the most pre=ferable; yet every one must be persuaded in their own mind. I have no objection but that which I formerly mentioned against first cousins. I am fixed in my judgment in that respect: I can only leave you in the hand of Him that has hitherto brought you on your way thro' the wilderness; and I trust that he will bring you safe to the journey's end, tho' it will be thro' great tribulation.— But Oh!—
"When will the affliction be o'er!— When will the fierce agony ceace?
With those that are gathered before, We press to the haven of peace?"
It has been often remarked that it is a blessing that we do not see all the dangers and difficulties we have to pass thro' in life; or we would shrink and be terrified at the dreadful prospect. We should be ready to cry with Jacob— "all these things are against me"— Let us consider there is more for us than all that is against us; and disappointments and crosses are making for us, tho' they are grievous for the present. Let us still look back and see what God hath wrought. Let us remember that we might have been worse. May the God of Abraham provide for you and your child! May the God of Isaac (if he sees it good lead you to such a partner as may help you forward to the land of Canaan! May the God of Jacob put under ~~neath~~ and around you his everlasting arms, and may you rest on him as the rock of ages! May he pilot you safe thro' the rocks on either hand, & steer you at last with a fair gale into the haven where you would be, "the port of ease, from the rough rage of swelling seas."— [As I have written the last two or three sentences with a shower of tears, I trust they will be heard, though they come from the most unworthy of the human race.—
I have some thoughts of going down to the Kent Circuit to adminis.r the sacrament in five or six places and among the rest at Dover, where the people have a desire since I was there before. The rheumatism prevails much in my left side.— I find the old Tabernacle tottering fast. I suffer much in other ways. my some of children are ill. My wife is exercised enough tho' she holds it pretty well, but is weak. Ye My maid lingers on, and coughs hard. She sometimes thinks herself better, but no one else thinks so, except her mistress; what they wish they believe, and I fear neither of them are earnest enough about the one thing needful. It is not easy to get religion here, and it is easy to lose it; yet I think there are many good people, and many getting well away, and others escaping with the skin of their teeth.— I am more and more at a loss how to advise Methodists respecting the training up their children. It is one of the weightiest matters in the world, and I think is not well understood even by the pious part of the world. All that any person has wrote upon the subject who has no children of their own, and who have not also studied well the tempers of others, and the infinite variety amongst mankind, has very little weight with me; tho' they may have mentioned many good things in theory or in a general way.

A German Clergyman (who is minister at the Queen's Chapel) has a little boy at the School where my daughters are at present; and he has given the Mistress orders that his child shall not be taught prayers, nor hear any thing of God till he is twelve years old; nor to read the Bible nor religious books. Perhaps this is going too far on the other side; but I would ~~not~~ be glad to hear all his reasons before I entirely condemn him.— Farewell.— J. C.

I am some way prevented from thinking about my children, for I should only puzzle myself, and perhaps grieve to no purpose; therefore I must rely wholly upon Providence; and I believe they will be brought thro' some way. I see many disappointed who had good prospects; and very often they who have much of this world's goods turn out worst. A Gentleman of my acquaintance, who is a gracious man himself has been a Member upwards of thirty years, has five sons; and very little prospect of their doing good. One who was a miracle 'till he was Sixteen, and who was experienced in the things of God, went to the College: after being two or three years at an English College, his father sent him to one in Hanover (chiefly to avoid bad company and wickedness) and he has come home little better than an Infidel; and does not recollect any thing he knew or heard before; so that the preaching of the Gospel seemed mere jargon to him, as he confess'd to his father. He got acquainted when abroad with two of our King's young sons, and his mind is now turned to get some office among the great, As he is hurting his constitution by the manner of life he lives, and anxiety in expectation of some post; his father expects that by and by disappointment ~~he~~ he will break his heart, and so perhaps his soul will be saved at last. —— Mr Wesley is ever crying out against parents striving to leave their children in a richer ~~way~~ state than they were themselves in, at setting out; as he has seen the evil effects of it these fifty years. Riches indeed are a dangerous thing; and yet almost every one is striving to get some of them, and they say they only want a competency, or the like. There is a foreign Greek Bishop who was here some time, as he said he had been persecuted in his own country. Three or four Meths. got themselves ordained by him; but the Methodists did not like them the better for it. Dr Hamilton is printing a sermon here which he preached at the Conference, last year, shewing what the Meths. were called to, and exhorting them to keep to it, and not seek Gowns, and silk sashes &c I like him much; he is simple and zealous, and like the old Methodists.— Mr W– in the prayer before mentioned, when he was so affected, prayed for himself, that he might not be a castaway after he had preached to others. It was a solemn moment, I believe every person was affected. Some thought he had dropped, and would rise no more. He has often express'd a desire to finish his life and work together. Whatever imperfections some may have perceived in him, they seemed all to vanish at that moment. He certainly has been a great man, ~~[illegible]~~, when every thing is considered.—

Great Events are taking place in the world. Some expect the Millennium will soon commence. Others that the Jews will soon be brought in. Before ~~our~~ Lord came there was a general expectation of it, or some great event in the world; so there seems to be now before his second coming; but people differ much about the manner of his coming, whether in person, or to set up a spiritual kingdom in the hearts of men.

May we be ready for all Events, for Death, and the general Judgment!

Farewell! hold fast what thou hast. —— J. C.

My Dear Sister

Tho' it is grievous to hear of our friends afflictions and
trials, yet we cannot help being anxious to hear about them. I can do little
more then relate a variety of scenes of afflictions in answer to what you have
given me. And we can only sympathize with each other.. I often find great
comfort in sympathy, and in conversing with those who have tender feelings
even tho' they cannot help me in other respects. It seems to me that some
are called to heavier trials here than others; and I believe this will be the lot
of all our family here. The Dispensations of GOD are a great deep. Perhaps
all these things are necessary, and may work together in the end for good. The
great point is to stand still in them; and yet to use every proper means to
lessen or avoid them. The afflictions of my family and my own have ra:
ther encreased since I wrote to you last, most of my children ill one way or
other, my maid continues as she was. I am very ill with a cold myself. I
had one for a fortnight soon after I wrote to you; but just before Christmass
I caught one, which encreased greatly during the hollidays, as I was obliged
to attend to give the Sacᵗ at five in the morning, and slept at the Chapels;
and left my family in ~~the~~ fear of robbers, a cold always brings me to the
verge of death, as it puts my whole frame out of order. My joints are loos:
ened; a violent pain in my head. To this is added ten thousand cares con
cerning my family, and concerning the Church, and the evils which I
foresee but cannot prevent. I endeavour to keep myself as calm as I can;
but tho' all seems tranquil without, ten thousand things are passing thro' the
mind every moment, which it is impossible to prevent. I can have little
Spiritual comfort from any one here. Few I can have union with. Some can
feel a little for me in outward things. and some are kind. I thank GOD, I
don't want any thing at present as to temporals tho' I had hard struggling
all the harvest till the middle of Novʳ. I got my rent paid in Decʳ. and was
quite out of debt at the end of the year, was a matter of rejoicing. Surely the
Lord hath done great things for me, and I dare not but trust him for the
future: but I find great discontent with men and things.

I can say little about your staying where you are longer. As there is
no other opening I suppose you must struggle on a little longer. Trials await
you where ever you go. — It is most difficult to keep in with the religious
world. If we are too reserved, they will represent us as gloomy disagrea:
ble people, and prejudice others against us, and so prevent our doing them good.
You must strive to keep the P.'s (if they are good men) on your side,
that they may defend you occationally, when others would bear you down.
It is not easy to keep our place in wisdom. It may be wrong sometimes
to be too passive, tho' perhaps, that is the safest extreme for ourselves.
There are many places where little fruit appeared for a long time, and after:
wards there was a good harvest. The Preachers must hope the best a
little longer concerning C—n. We need not puzzle ourselves about the
work, and those who are employed in it. There is and has been much
evil mixed with the good in every age, and God will carry on his work in
his own way, and at his own times. We see the Devil and sin has been
permitted; and need we wonder if Satan has sent in his deceitful work:
ers, among the sincere and upright? yet God can and will overturn these
in time and will bring good out of evil. As to those who are evil, their
sins will surely find them out even here and that in various ways.

I am some way prevented from thinking about my children, for I should only puzzle myself, and perhaps grieve to no purpose; therefore I must rely wholly upon Providence; and I believe they will be brought thro' some way. I see many disappointed who had good prospects; and very often they who have much of this world's goods turn out worst. A Gentleman of my acquaintance, who is a gracious man himself, has been a Member upwards of thirty years, has five sons; and very little prospect of their doing good. One who was a miracle till he was sixteen, and who was experienced in the things of God, went to the college: after being two or three years at an English College, his father sent him to one in Hanover (chiefly to avoid bad company and wickedness) and he has come home little better than an Infidel; and does not recollect any thing he knew or heard before; so that the preaching of the Gospel seemed mere jargon to him, as he confess'd to his father. He got acquainted when abroad with two of our King's young sons, and his mind is now turned to get some office among the great. As he is hurting his constitution by the manner of life he lives, and anxiety in expectation of some post; his father expects that by and by disappointment &c he will break his heart, and so perhaps his soul will be saved at last. —— Mr Wesley is ever crying out against parents striving to leave their children in a richer ~~way~~ state than they were themselves in, at setting out; as he has seen the evil effects of it these fifty years. Riches indeed are a dangerous thing; and yet almost every one is striving to get some of them; and they say they only want a competency, or the like. There is a foreign Greek Bishop who was here some time, as he said he had been persecuted in his own country. Three or four Meth.o got themselves ordained by him; but the Methodists did not like them the the better for it. Dr Hamilton is printing a sermon here which he preached at the Conference, last year, shewing what the Meth. were called to, and exhorting them to keep to it, and not seek Gowns, and silk Sashes &c I like him much; he is simple and zealous, and like the old Methodists. — Mr W— in the prayer before mentioned, when he was so affected, prayed for himself, that he might not be a castaway after he had preached to others. It was a solemn moment, I believe every person was affected. Some thought he had dropped, and would rise no more. He has often express'd a desire to finish his life and work together. Whatever imperfections some may have perceived in him, they seemed all to vanish at that moment. He certainly has been a great man, ~~also~~, when every thing is considered.

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I can say little about your staying where you are longer. As there is no other opening I suppose you must struggle on a little longer. Trials await you where ever you go. – It is most difficult to keep in with the religious world. If we are too reserved, they will represent us as gloomy disagreeable people, and prejudice others against us, and so prevent our doing them good. You must strive to keep the D.s (if they are good men) on your side, that they may defend you occationally, when others would bear you down. It is not easy to keep our place in wisdom. It may be wrong sometimes to be too passive, tho' perhaps, that is the safest extreme for ourselves. There are many places where little fruit appeared for a long time, and afterwards there was a good harvest. The Preachers must hope the best a little longer concerning C—n. We need not puzzle ourselves about the work, and those who are employed in it. There is and has been much evil mixed with the good in every age, and God will carry on his work in his own way, and at his own times. We see the Devil and Sin has been permitted; and need we wonder if Satan has sent in his deceitful workers, among the sincere and upright? yet God can and will overturn these in time and will bring good out of evil. As to those who are evil, their sins will surely find them out even here and that in various ways.

lesson to live in the will of God, and to suffer every thing as coming from him either directly or indirectly by his permission.—

The following is some of her religious tenants which she held.

Charity is the source and the end, the rule and consummation of the whole Law; of all duties, of all virtues: And the two means of arriving at this perfect love are prayer and self-denial enjoined in the Gospel. Prayer is neither a sweet sensation, nor the charm of an inflamed imagination, nor an abstracted speculative reasoning: but it is the entire bent of the soul toward its divine Origin. It is what the most simple are capable of: what nothing should interrupt; and what is compatible with all the duties of our mortal state.

It is necessary at first to use vigorous efforts, repeated acts, and frequent returnings to God, that we may be separated from all the objects of our passions, or natural inclinations, avoid all occasions by which they are excited, recollect and shut ourselves up within our spiritual nature, and by that means gradually gain a habit of living in the divine presence, after a more simple, uniform, and intimate manner. Whilst the mind thus ascends towards the sovereign truth, the heart disengages itself, not only from all grosser affections, but even from all its most refined views and pursuits. And here we may discover the source of two very different operations of the divine Wisdom. viz: God in the beginning sets our hearts free from impure pleasures, by the taste he gives of a heavenly delectation. Abstracted by the tender sentiments of a new-born love, we exercise ourselves with a noble and masculine vigour in all the labours of an active virtue. The soul, ravished with the divine amiableness, is no longer to be touched with the seducing charms of a profane sensuality.

He then ~~theims~~ proceeds to another operation in us; in order to destroy the mistaken love of our selves, and this not by pleasures but by sufferings. After having weaned us from earthly objects, he shuts us up within the solitary prison of our own beings, to the end we may experience the darkness, weakness, and emptiness of that being. He sets before our eyes all the secret abominations of our self-love, the impurity of those virtues that flow from it, and its usurpations upon the rights of the divinity. What a source of pains must this be to a creature idolatrous of itself, and of its own virtues? The soul finds nothing in itself that is worthy of its love; and being no longer able to endure its own society, flies off and forsakes itself, to plunge, and be swallowed up in the love of that object, who alone is lovely.

Then it is that the importunate noise of the senses, and of the imaginations, becomes hushed; the tumultuous hurry of our thoughts and passions ceaces; and the whole soul, being brought into a profound silence, adores him in spirit and in truth, whose perfections are beyond all expression, and above all conception.

But this silence is such as excludes only useless reflections, superfluous reasonings, and barran speculations, which interrupt the action of the devout heart. In loving God purely, we believe every thing he teaches, obey every thing he commands, hope for every thing ~~he teaches, obey every thing he commands~~ promises: For this charity, being predominent produces, animates, and perfects in us all the virtues human and divine.

Such was the Doctrine which M. Guion experimentally learned in Christ's spiritual academy, and which she was constrained to publish both by word and writing, viz: the necessity of the operation of the leaven of Christ's kingdom, to purge out all the old leaven of corrupt self, to die daily to that, in order to pass into, and to live wholly in God, while here. Yet for this she was severely persecuted in various ways by the Ecclesiasticks of France, and their blind dependants. — All which she bore like a true christian, and, praying for the Salvation and happiness of her persecutors. She wrote a good deal of poetry, and much of it while she was in prison: some of which has been translated into our language, which are very spiritual. I give you one of her Canticles (as they are called) which you will admire, when you consider it closely, I find, that many devoted and spiritual people in all ages have at times been led to express their thoughts in poetry. It is pleasing and apt to make a more lasting impression on the memory.

The Swallow. From Madam Guyon.

I am fond of the Swallow; I learn from her flight,
Had I skill to improve it, a lesson of love:
How seldom on earth do we see her alight?
She dwells in the skies: she is ever above.

It is on the wing that she takes her repose,
Suspended and pois'd in the regions of air:
'Tis not in the fields that her sustenance grows,
'Tis wing'd like herself, 'tis ethereal fare.

She comes in the Spring; all the Summer she stays;
And dreading the cold she still follows the Sun:
So, true to our love, we should covet his rays,
The place where he shines not immediately shun.

Our light should be love, and our nourishment pray'r,
'Tis dangerous food that we find upon earth:
The fruit of this world is beset with a snare,
In itself it is hurtful, as vile in its birth.

'Tis rarely, if ever, She settles below,
And only when building a nest for her young
Were it not for her brood, She would never bestow
A thought upon any thing filthy as dung.

Let us leave it ourselves, 'tis a mortal abode,
To bask ev'ry moment in infinite love:
Let us fly the dark winter, and follow the road,
That leads to the day spring appearing above.

~~[illegible]~~ must ascend to the place of its rest, from whence it came.
Farewel till we meet in Heaven!" — I believe Mr Wesley got many sorts of prophesies of this kind within a year past; but I would not regard them. It does not require any prophecy to see that in the nature of things he must soon go: we see it very sensibly. His eyesight is almost gone, tho' he struggles hard; he fails also in other respects; yet he is wonderful considering every thing and very chearful. He seems to think death is not far off. I think this winter will set him very hard. — I am striving to take the best care I can of myself for the sake of my family. I feel a great defect in my hearing and memory &c. — Surely this is a frail Tabernacle, and yet, how many ~~[illegible]~~ thousands of the hale and strong are cut down around me; but I am not yet ready to go; much dross still remains; oh! how long suffering is God, and how does he strive to get himself the victory and possession of my heart! I don't think I am so attached to my family, as to make an idol of any of them; some thinks I err on the other side; but I find they are a dead weight, which keep me down; at least they will not help me to fly, and be as active as I might. My wife and maid cannot now (on acc^t of the afflictions we have) attend any means, and they seem to me not to get forward in divine things. I grieve much in mind on their account, I want some christian, to help myself on in the narrow road. I am very fond of that hymn in the collection of Psalms and hymns. (As I don't know if you have seen it, I shall here give you a part of it.)

"True tis a strait, and thorny road
And mortal spirits tire and faint!
But we forget the mighty God,
That feeds the strength of every saint

O mighty God, thy matchless power
Is ever new and ever young;
And firm endures while endless years
Their everlasting circles run.

From thee the overflowing spring,
Our souls shall drink a fresh supply;
While such as trust their native strength
Shall melt away, and droop and die.

Swift as an Eagle cuts the air
We'll mount aloft to thine abode;
On wings of love our souls shall fly,
Nor tire amidst the heavenly road!" —

Give my love to all our dear friends and fellow sufferers. Farewell — J. C.

My Dear Sister

March 6th. 1790—

Our time of sojourning here is a time of suffering; and tho' we know it must be so, and know the reason why it is so; yet it is very natural to wish for some alleviation of our sufferings. They are not joyous; but they are necessary medicines prescribed by an allwise Physician who knows our disease, and sees that some severe means must be used to restore us to health. Oh! how kindly does he treat his patients, tho' they often think he deals hardly by them! Why should a living man complain; a man for the punishment of his sin? — All that our kind friend and Physician prescribes is a proof of his mercy, his guardian care, and affectionate love towards us. It has been a long & cloudy day with me, or rather a dreary night; seeing my house has not been free from sickness for six months, sometimes two, three, or five all ill together. Some of us have got a little respite, and others remain ill, and I suppose will till they are removed out of a wilderness of woe. I have a complication of disorders myself. I was quite relaxed. My head was in a dreadful way with pain. I am a little better at present; but am greatly worn, and feeble. My two young children have been ill. The maid is given up by the Doctors. &c You may well suppose our minds were well exercised amidst all these things; and the more so as none of the Preachers or their wives came to see us, or administer any consolation or advice. All this seems to make me cease more and more from man; and I trust, upon the whole I have profitted by these severe dispensations; and when I could see no way to escape, I was constrained to be resigned, and say father, thy will be done. O that I may improve more and more in this lesson!

I had Mr W— for half an hour to drink tea with us, and to see my maid about a fortnight before he left town. He prescribed nettle juice and stewed prunes for the spitting of blood, which stoped it. He said that medicines hardly ever cured a consumption. He left this the last day in Febry having preached in the forenoon at the New Chapel, and in the afternoon at West street. In the morning, in ~~the~~ his prayer after sermon he was greatly affected, and stopped for a minute, and then went on in broken accents; in a manner I had never known him to do before. He has spoke more of his death this winter than he used, and seemed to feel that he must die as well as others. We need not puzzle ourselves to think what events will take place on his death. If we could foresee we could not prevent; and we may rest assured God will take care of his Church, and provide Ministers in every age. He will also stand by those that are sincere and simple in the dark and cloudy day. — I am prepared for the worst, and I believe God will some way bring me thro' the few remaining days I have to live. — You must also strive to trust God with your soul and body and your all; you may be sure that trials abide you as long as you are on this side Jordan. — I have lately read Lady Guion's life a French woman a very holy and extraordinary woman of her day. Tho bred a papist. She was much persecuted, and imprisoned on acct of her religious tenants, she was subject to mistakes, but enjoyed wonderful communion with God. She had learned that blessed

Then the tastes and judgments of the readers being all as different as their faces, there is no possibility of pleasing them. No — in the very nature of things it is impossible. Mr. W— himself collects and extracts such things as he approves, that is, he scratches out, and puts in words and sentences as he sees best, so that a printed book thus marked is often almost as bad as the manuscripts, all blotted &c. — We are obliged often to insert little scraps to fill up a part of a page, and it is not easy to get these just to suit that place, and especially to suit the readers. Most people, and even the preachers know nothing of these difficulties, or don't consider, and as they differ in their judgments, so they are and always will be complaining. Mr. O— was blamed (and I think unjustly) I visited him yesterday even, being taken very ill both in body and mind. About May last he had been very ill with a cholick, and was only lately begining to recover; the disorder has returned this week, to which he says the trouble of his mind upon this occasion has contributed. He complains of being treated ungenerously &c. He owned to me that he had struggled hard for eight days to suppress his own spirit &c. I thought indeed it w.d go near to kill him as his passions were strong, and he had so high an opinion of himself, and to add to the indignity, was to be succeeded by an insufficient Joe. I endeavoured to justify Mr. W— and also assured him (which I believe he is partly convinced of) that I had no hand in the matter, and was totally a stranger to it, till the morning when Mr W. mentioned it himself. I pray'd with him and found much of the presence of GOD whilst at prayer. — I think, if he does not die now he will not live long. As to some men's favour, no one need build much upon it, for it is all uncertain &c — I expect these things, and am always prepared for the worst. I set it down for a certainty, that no one can please all. As to those families at H——a, I know not how to advise. It is probable tribulation awaits them wherever they go, and perhaps it is best so, tho' it is not joyous but grievious for the present. Nothing, scarcely, is more hard to determine than respecting the changing of our situation. We must undoubtedly use our reason, and the advice of friends, as well as seek to be directed by the most High. After using every means &c and being hedged in on every side, then we are to take that way, where there seems to be an opening. My two eldest children are now at another School, being the fourth. I have had many trials with S—— — and very great expence. Many of them want to have the children dressed finer than the parents choose; that all their scholars may make an appearance when they walk out. This they think is necessary, that they may get more scholars &c. —

farewell J. C.

My Dear Sister

Nov.r 17. 1789

Many things has contributed to hinder my writing to you sooner. Partly my hurry of business, partly the afflictions of my family. I have been in the furnace for some time; but it is all needful to purge away my dross, and to cut me off from every thing here below. My young child was near death about the beginning of Oct.r and I expected the Mother would follow it. &c.--- At the same time my other two young children and the maid were ill. In the midst of all these things you may well suppose my mind has been exercised enough; yet it is a great mercy that I am in tolarable health myself, and tho' often ready to sink under various burdens, am I know not how kept from utter dispair. It is a great mercy that I am saved intirely from anxiety about to morrow; for if I should think about it, I see I should be more & more bewildered; therefore I am obliged to leave it whither I will or not. It is a great mercy to be sensible of our mercies, not to let them pass un=observed.—— If I should puzzle myself about the Church, or how matters will go when Mr. L.e is called away, I should perhaps do myself more harm than good; therefore I strive, tho' it is not easy to do it, to take no thought in this respect also. Sometimes I think things will be better, at least in some respects; and I know GOD does not stand in need of any man's help.— I have in my possession a letter written just before last Conference by a man at Nottingham, giving him partly an account of his own experience. He seems to be very happy, he says he has experienced the utmost of the perfection Mr W— has taught. He seems to be very simple, rather illiterate, and I think partly an Enthusiast. Towards the end of his letter are these words relative to Mr L—s death.—— "GOD has some time since given me a Commission with orders not to open it till in such a Latitude. I am now arrived at my destination, and my first orders are to inform you, that he has no more need of thy services here, and desires you to take no anxious thought for his Church; but would have you remember, that he did not take Moses to himself, till he had called Joshua. He has given me this promise, "For my brethren and companion's sake, I will now say, peace be within thee; for, as the mountains are about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people, from hence forth and for ever."—— Take no thought about ~~that~~ some of your undutiful children at Nottingham. All will end well. And now I trust I have no need to advise you to set your house in order, being persuaded your prudence always keeps it so, and now I inform you the time is come, when that earthen Vessel of yours, which has been so often filled with love, will receive such a flood, that the old tube not able to contain it, must burst, and then that active princi-

-ple

My Dear Sister

London 22d Augt 1789

It is indeed all mercy that GOD does from time to time afflict, or suffer us to be tried some way or other, lest we should grow cold and forget him. He has various ways of dealing with us, according to our natural constitution, or circumstances in life; and perhaps, we may say in some sense, that there is no temtation but is common to all, tho' it may vary very much in particulars. I have had some gracious visits from the Lord since I wrote to you last. Notwithstanding my unfaithfulness, he still bears with me. I have been some what afflicted by a cold &c &c. I'm sure this world is not a desirable place to live in, on many accounts. There are many dark providences here; but they will by and by all be unriddled. Let us in the mean time live by faith, and trust him who hath hitherto helped us. Perhaps it is best not to look long, so as to puzzle ourselves, at many things we see and hear in the religious world. Are we not a mystery to ourselves? why then need we wonder so much at others? As there has been a stand made at this Conference against some proceedings of late years; I have hope matters may yet turn out better than our fears. They have resolved to return back to their first principles; that is, to ordain no more, and to keep that kind of union with the Church which they had many years ago. If they adhere to this, after Mr W—s death, I think it will be well; but he went too far, for tho' he is striving to retreat the best he can; yet he cannot undo what has been done; and I imagine the D— rejoices at this in his heart. You have heard, I suppose, by this time that his name is not in the Minutes; and he is in some disgrace on acct of his pompous address to Gen: Washington in America. If we were to countenance him, our Enemies might say that we want to overturn the Constitution here as well as in America, and that we are hypocrites by professing loyalty openly, whilst we encourage rebellion secretly. Our friends here are much stirred up against the Dr and exclaim against him for draining away the money from this country to establish Missions in the West Indias and America that he might be there as a Bishop, or rather a kind of Pope. I often think of a dream which a pious sensible woman here had respecting him before I came here, and which she told me, which imports that he will settle, or sink beyond the Alanic flood; for she thought he cross'd a water or river, and sunk on the other side, or she could see him no more. I had also a dream about him and myself at the Conferrence in 1785 when he had persuaded Mr W— to ordain three men to send them to Scotland, and applied to me to assist in the Ordination. I hesitated and wrote my sentiments that night to Mr W— advising him to do nothing hastily, and to consider consequences, and told him I did not think there was the same necessity of Ordination for Scotland that there had been for America. That night I dreamed that the Dr and myself were standing on the top of an exceeding high, but very slender steeple, or some thing like that, which seemed to bend under us, and when I looked down the depth seemed immense; and I was affraid. The D— fell down; but I remained where I was. What became of him I don't know, but I think he seemed towards the bottom to struggle, or in some degree to recover. Mr W— at the late Conference declared he was sorry he had ordained any for Scotland, for, he saw no good arisen from it, but much evil.

I don't know whether he recolects the advice I gave him; tho' he and the Dr paid me some compliment at the time for they saw there was some reason in what I said; yet they went on with their intended scheme. I was easy in my mind, after I had written, seeing I had delivered my own soul; and I often rejoiced in my mind since that I happened to do it. I had no human being to consult, nor had I much time to deliberate.

I am glad that the controversy in Dublin is stopped. One or two here, with whom I have talked, and who would if they could, defend Mr Mentor, were of the same opinion with me that all the Observer has said is absolutely true. Those poor weak scriblers, who attempted to write, only hurted the cause they strove to defend. A weak defender does more harm than good. There are none of the D-- in Ireland, and but few in England, who are able to write. We have sad work to spell out their meaning, or discover the sense of their letters; for Mr W- is obliged often to get some one to read them to him, as he can see little by candle light. It is a laborious task also to prepare for the press those accounts of themselves, and of others, which are often printed in the Magazine; to make them sense and grammer, and to contract the sentences, still endeavouring to preserve the sense of the writer. That task is lately fallen upon me, contrary to my expectation. Mr W- stopped here two nights after Conf. and then went to Bristol and then to Cornwall. The Conf. complain'd of the inattention of Mr Olivers, and advised Mr W- to dismiss him, and get some other to correct the press; accordingly he sent for me on the morning after his arrival, and desired me to take part of the business upon me, telling me he would give me £30 a year and as much more to Mr O as a pension for past services. There is a great deal of drudgery in this business; but there was no other of our Connection resident here, who could or would undertake it. All the Books are constantly reprinting (and even this is laborious, as every single letter, and stop or tittle must be read over twice or thrice with the sharpest eye) but the chief difficulty is in the Magazine, a great part of which is made out from manuscripts, badly written. They must be corrected and reduced to grammer and sense, and perhaps the whole page or leaf will be so blotted and interlined, as we must cross out some words and insert others, that the printer can hardly make it out. This is the case also with respect to these sermons of Mr W- written in his own hand, which it is almost impossible for any one now to make out. When a sheet is first printed, it is brought to me to correct. Then the printer alters the words letters &c, according as I have marked them in the margin, then he prints another sheet, and sends it to me again to revise it, and perhaps there may be some errors in it, which he and I did not observe before. Then he prints again, and if right, it is all work'd off, that is of that sheet, and so of every sheet through the work. But besides all this, in the Magazine, the different materials are to be selected and then inserted in some order; and the most of these to be divided and a portion of them inserted from time to time; now, this has more difficulty in it than you can easily imagine, for we are confined to a certain number of pages in the whole, and yet we must fill up these with various things collected from a vast heap of rubbish.

My Dear Sister July 13th 1789

I recd. yours and am thankful to you for the pains you have taken in transcribing the Letters. It was a satisfaction to me to get them; tho' they contain nothing new to me. As to the Observer I know not who he is, but this I see, he is well acquainted with Mr. Mentor's manner, and writings, and in my judgment every sillable he says is true. I knew if Mr. M—r did answer, he would do it in the way he has done; but with discerning men, who are not prejudiced on either sides. It is no answer at all, and it only exposes him the more as it shews the world clearly that he uses evasion or reservation. He has a method of excusing himself upon all occasions, which passes with the greater part of his own followers, who are undiscerning, and beside prejudiced in his favour; and prejudice either for or against any person blinds the judgment.— But if he would acknowledge his mistake, in many instances that I have known, in an open honest way, it would appear more noble, and he would rise much higher in my esteem. But when he has no other shift, he usually lays the blame on those near him, and says they advised him to it. As to those ignorant persons, who wrote in his defence either against Mr. S.— or the Observer, they will do more harm than good to that cause they attempt to defend. They are by no means a match for the Observer. He is cool, calm, and a close reasoner. It is our business however not to puzzle ourselves about these things, or reason about them. God will certainly carry on his work in some way or other, and he sometimes makes use of men for a time, tho' he has not sent them, and as the tares are not to be rooted up rashly lest the wheat also be plucked up; where there is a mixture of good and evil, we must bear with men, and many things that we cannot wholy approve of. How long does God bear with us! And shall not we bear with the mistakes and infirmities of others? In the mean time the Meth.ts will be hard put to it, to answer in a judicious manner, the objections of the Clergy and others gainsayers. Let them avoid as far, as they can, ~~evade~~ defending Mr. Mentor by saying he is best able to defend himself; but let them defend their own conduct. Let them desire the gainsayers to define the word Church first. Then they can say "we, or I, agree with the doctrines of the Church, and we can use the prayers of it; tho' we think we are not to be confined to one form at all times". It must be acknowledged, indeed, that Mr. Wesley and his preachers are, and have been for forty years and upwards, Desenters in some sense; for they do not acknowledge subordination to the present Bishops, nor do they pretend to have recd. (except Mr. W— himself) any authority to preach from them. Also Mr. W— has in some sense exercised the office of a Bishop since the first moment when he sent forth preachers, and appointed them their place to labour in. He did not use the form of laying his hand on their head; but he took them by the hand, and delivered them the minutes, desiring them to preach the doctrines therein contained. Now is it not wonderful that this has not been taken notice of, at least publickly: for what is ordination if this is not?

No one of sense will pretend to say, that any man, or number of men, can make a Minister. That is the work of God alone; but after he is commissioned by God, they may advise, or direct him in what place he may labour, and they may pray for him and lay their hands upon his head, or use any other form they please. This will do no harm, and in my judgment it is an indifferent thing and I am persuaded the Apostles only used it in that way. We may con=form outward to many things of an indifferent nature for the sake of peace to the Church and Country in which we have been bred. I lay no more stress upon any power or influence I received from the imposition of Bishop Cradock's hand, than if I had rec.d it from the meanest mechanick in the Town of Savan This would appear a horrible saying, and almost treason to some ignorent bigots; I only mention it in private; but if I was under a necessity I would do it publickly, and would defend it also. Mr. M—r may say what he pleases for himself; I for myself do acknowledge what the Observer says to be true without any quibble or equivocation, I have to all intents and purposes, been a Dissenter since the day I left the parrish of Kinawly; yet I can read the prayers of the Church without scruple; to refuse to do which for conscience sake Mr. Wesley makes the distinguishing mark of a Dessenter. —— Tho' Mr. S—, as well as ~~all~~ other men, has somethings about him, which need to be purged away; yet I know he is exceeding honest and open, apt to speak his mind and because he reproved some of the Preachers for their immoral conduct, when he was very zealous in the begining, they could not bear him, and they prejudiced others against him; and as a dog, when he once gets the name of being mad, all will pursue him let him be ever so tame and inocent; so it will be with a man, when once he gets a bad name; he is borne down by the tide. If I could have made peace I would; but I saw matters were gone too far. Tho I w.d not defend Mr. S— in every thing; yet if I was call'd to speak what I think, I should say he has a great deal of truth on his side. I endeavour to say nothing. I still approve of the old plan, and that of traveling and changing the preachers; and if they continue sincere and zealous, there can be no plan equal to it. I believe the greatest part of the Body are still pure, and we have reason to hope that all things will still be well. Undoubtedly there will be still an odd one dropping off by immorality, or setting up for themselves; yet God will raise up young sincere ones in their stead. —— It is not easy to act with respect to the Clergy, to pay them respect, in order to remove their bad opinion or prejudice, and yet to withstand them where they are wrong. You have the unction of the Holy one to direct you in this and ten thousand other instances, where man knows not how to advise. —— I have at times felt more of the presence of the Lord than when I wrote last to you. We are all in tolarable health, blessed be God. I have a good deal of the rheumatism in most part of my left side especially in my left knee; which I suppose will increase, till this body turns to corruption. I expect afflictions &c. in myself and family as long as we are in the body. Our love to all our relations and Christian friends, I trust we shall be joined in the bonds of love, and still close closer and closer to each other to all Eternity. Amen!

J. C.

Yet it is impossible to avoid looking a little at the conduct of men and this usually has
either a good or bad effect upon us when we hear them speak in publick. It is
amazing what effect prejudice either for or against has on the mind of the
hearer. The more we look at men or things, the more cause we have to won-
der. The ways of Providence also are a great unfathomable deep. He can,
and often does bring good out of seeming evil. Perhaps he may bring good
out of the present divisions among Christians; but it is, at least seems to us
at present a very great evil. The more some among us speak of not separat-
ing from the Church, the more it lessens them in the esteem of discerning
unprejudiced people. But they avail themselves of the ambiguity of the
words Church, Separation, and Dissenters; because these may be taken
in various senses. What they say is true, that they don't intend to separate
from the Church, if we take the word to signify — the <u>Church of Christ</u> — or, (as
it is defined in one of our Articles) <u>a company of true Believers</u>. Thus they
can easily elude all the attacks of Antagonists; and they may contend
for ever about words, without coming to an issue. Yet I firmly believe
(whatever may be now said) that when 40 years ago they declared not to
separate from the Church of England, they meant the professed mem-
bers ~~wh~~ whether they were believers or not; in order that the Meth^s by
mingling with them as well as all other Denominations might do them
good, and leaven them with the leaven of holiness. This was then thought
was the peculiar call of the Methodists. Mr B— says so still; but he
has taken some steps of late years which seem to have a contrary ten-
dancy. I am rejoiced at the account you give of the end which D—
made at last. How great is the mercy of God! O how long does he bear
with sinners.— As to your S— I know not how to advise you. It
is undoubtedly your duty to trust God, and cast your care upon him
in this as well as other respects; but then we must use means, and
act in a rational ~~way~~ manner. It is not wise to force any one to a trade
they do not like, for they will never make a proficiency in it. The genius
of Children, or their turn of mind should be studied, and they themselves
should be consulted, and impress upon their minds as well as you can
the Idea that they must earn their own bread. I know not what to do with
mine; I have thoughts of taking the eldest from school where she is, and of
trying to get her in another, partly to work and teach for her board for
two years longer, till she is 14, at which time Apprentices are put out.
She seems well calculated for a Teacher. Children, when they grow
up, frequently prove the greatest trial to their parents. but I endea-
vour not to reason at all about mine, for I know not what they will be on
the morrow. I cannot change their nature; and I know we all are liable
to change. We may sympathize with our Sister S—; but this will do
her little good. Her grand resource must be in God, who alone can
support her, and who can also pursue and find out her prodigals,
as well as he has done others.— Our people here have got it into
their heads that my call here is chiefly to visit the sick, and this gets me
the more work, for if any of them know of a poor sick neighbour they

ask them will they permit them to bring a minister to them. I used to have more of this work than others not only in my own parish but in those around me. The Methodists at first seemed to think that none were saved but those who had an assurance of faith; but most of those who are experienced think otherwise now. It is certainly the privilege of all; but we must not limit God. The acc.t of J-- B--s death is shocking, and must have distress'd her friends much.——

There were wonderful doings here the 23d of April when the King and the Parliment came in state to St. Paul's Church to return pub-lic thanks for his recovery. The next night there were such illu-minations as perhaps were never seen in the world before. It is thought not less than half a Million of money was spent upon the occation, the illumatution at the Bank alone, and a piece of painting placed in the front cost, as I heard, thirteen hundred and fifty pounds. They have improved the method of illumination much by having small lamps about the size of one's fist fixed on the walls and formed in various figures, and being of various colours ranged allernately, they seemed at a distance like so many precious stones or dia-monds sparkling. No words can convey an Idea of it. Each were vying with one another who should be most splendid or most curious. I was glad to find that all ranks acknowledged the hand of God in restoring the King. And tho' there could not be much solemn worship amidst such a bustle and such crowds; yet still, I thought it was well, in this Infidel age, for the higher powers to acknowlidge a Providence and to pay him homage. This consideration led me (as I preached that forenoon at our new Chapel) to speak from Dan: 4. 2. 3. I endeavoured to shew that God has often extorted from Infidels, and those who knew him not, an acknowledgment of his power, and of his super-intendancy of the affairs of this world; pulling down one and setting up a-nother just as he pleased: and that this held good with respect to Kings, nations, and privite persons, then I spoke of Nebuchadnezzar, and the four great Monarchies in the East &c. then to the present occation. Lastly to the work of grace now wrought in believers, &c &c ——

B-- will have trials enough as long as he lives. But they are all necessary for us, to purge out our dross. I hope you continue to pray for us. I endeavour in general to retire in secret at one o clock, tho' as I said, my prayers are but too cold.

"O when will this conflict be o'er?" ——

come we must not faint. the land is not far off, and by and by, I trust, we shall get safe into Port. —— My wife joins me in the tenderest bonds of love to you and all the rest. May we meet in the haven of everlasting felicity! —— J. C.

preaching at Westminister, The quantity of oil and candles which must have been consumed that night must be great, nor can words give you an Idea of the illuminations. Besides candles in the windows, on the out side of many houses small lamps were disposed so as to form various emblems, sometimes letters, or words, and various figures. Some of these lamps were green, some blue, some red, and some white, intermixed, which reflected the colours in a most beautiful manner. some of the emblems and words acknowledged the hand of providence in raising up the King again. For the greater part of that four miles each side of the street, where the foot people walked was nearly as throng as Cavan street in a fair day, so that I could with difficulty pass. In the midle of the street were coaches quite close to oneanother, beside those going to and fro, filled chiefly with Ladies to see the lights &c. you are to observe that this was the case in that one line which I came, and did not go out of my way; and I suppose every part of the City was just the same. The noise of the coaches, the din and bustle of the people, the ringing of bells, &c made it appear as if the Earth was shaking to pieces, and the Elements all in confusion. As we had appointed the last friday in Feb.y a day of fasting and prayer, the King being by that time in a great measure restored, we joined thanksgiving with our prayers.

Many prayers have been offered up these four months, and it appears they have not been in vain. There was a likelihood of great confusion, as bad men who are about the Prince of Wales, and his favourites, were all just waiting to be put into office, and to rule the nation with a rod of iron; but they are now confounded and disappointed; and I hope will be so. The King can now distinguish between his real friends and those who were otherwise. He has within these few days discharged some about him, who in his illness had joined the Prince's party. It seems there has been great contention in the Parliment at Dublin. And the greater part had joined the Prince. They sent over six to present an Address to the Prince of Wales choosing him to be sole Regent of ~~England~~ Ireland, without limiting his power, as it was to have been here; but by the time they came here, the King was recovered, and they were laughed at by the King's friends, and by the people. — — It is apparent that GOD has once more interfered in behalf of this sinful nation. Oh! how often has he delivered it from impending ruin, and how long has he borne with it, as he did with the Jews of old. ——

Where Clergymen such as (C— and M—) are acting uprightly as far as they have light, they should be respected by the Meth—, even tho' they do not see the plan of salvation clearly; and if in conversation an opportunity offers, a word might be dropped in a respectable manner, to shew them the error of laying works as a foundation, tho' we must insist upon works after we have believed, and shew that we have faith by the fruits.— I know not whether Mr. D— will stop in your neighbourhood. It may be useful to some persons, tho' not so much as might be expected. However, we must give great allowances on account his age, and the hurry that he is always in. It is thought he will have a difficult matter to settle in Dublin, as many of the chief members are dissatisfied about having prayers &c at 11 oclock on sundays. No doubt but there will be some divisions among the Methodists at Mr. W—s death; and some are separating already. It is impossable to get a large body of men of one mind in every thing, and all disinterested. —— Let us live by faith, and walk closely with GOD, and we shall be brought thro' some way if we live to see those perilous times, or a dark and cloudy day. —

Farewell! our love to all — J. C.

My Dear sister

June 17: 1789

Your Letter of the 9th inst. brought me some pleasure, for I had been long without hearing from you. From the whole of your Letter I see that is again and again confirmed, which has been said and felt by thousands over and over, that here we have no abiding City, that this is not our rest, and that we are poor pilgrims upon Earth. How wonderfully, and yet how tenderly doth GOD deal with us! But our behaviour towards him, after all the lessons he has taught us, is astonishing. Man is a mystery to himself in many respects; he need not therefore stop to puzzle himself with mysteries in other things. Every day I feel more and more of that tendency there is in the human heart to depart from the living GOD, and a proneness to unbelief. And what we feel and know of this in one heart, gives us to know something of all men, seeing all are more or less like to one another. I have had no sickness since I wrote to you last; but I feel lifeless and barren in the inner man. How strange is this! It seems to me that man all the way through is admirably represented by the conduct of the Israelites. They cried unto GOD in their distress, ~~and~~ But after he heard, and delivered them, and gave them possession of the promised blessings; how soon did they forget him, or lightly esteem him! O Ingratitude, Ingratitude, which (as even the old Heathens said) comprehends in it all other crimes! I can have little union with many of the people here, tho' there are certainly many excellent persons among us, as well as many among other Denominations; but this arises partly from a want of being intimate with them, or a want of time in them, or a want of opportunity in me, to converse freely and closely together. A friend was observing to me a few days ago, that we want to have some of the plain Country Preachers to visit us now and then, in order to revive the spirit of old Methodism among us. There is a great deal of preaching here, and a multiplicity of means; and these are great privileges and great blessings, yet upon the closest observation I can make, they don't seem to be profitable; at least the people cannot digest one hundredth part of what they hear; and they have little time to read at home, as it is incumbent upon them to be very diligent in temporals, and above all I fear there is not so much family or closet duty as there should be. — Our people hurry home at one oclock from the Chapel, then they eat their dinner in a hurry, and after they must set out again, as it will take some of them half an hour, others less to walk back to the Chapel. There is nothing but a constant bustle throughout the whole Sabbath. And as we have a great number of Communicants, many or most of those who receive first, go home, and do not wait for the conclusion, as it is often near one before we have done tho' we begin the service half past nine. The state of Meth.m is very different in some respects from what it is with you. I see difficulties on either hand nor do I know well how they may be remedied. You did right in hearing Mr — to look to GOD. and so when you hear any other man; for then you will not be disappointed.

And whilst they all ~~shall~~ to praise aspire,
She'll vie to raise a loftier strain.

My fellow sufferer, wait awhile,
And patiently pursue your way:
Tho' now you weep you'll soon shall smile,
And bask in an unclouded day.

The wintry blast will soon be o'er,
A few more gales will waft you home:
And when you gain the wish'd-for shore,
Thro' fields of bliss you'll freely roam.

And many friends will greet you there,
Who now are safely pass'd the flood:
Who once were toss'd and tempted here,
But fought their way, and firmly stood.

Among the rest I hope to stand,
And hail you to the happy shore,
Where we, amidst the choral Band,
Shall sweetly sing, and weep no more.

What, though we now are parted wide,
And swelling billows intervene:
Our spirits nothing shall divide
Nor seas nor oceans come between.

No — we are tied by stricter bands,
Than ever link'd the wedded pair:
In Jesus we have join'd our hands
And all his members centre there.

O union sweet! — O happy Bride!
Whom Jesus deigns to call his own;
Anon he'll place her by his side,
And deck her with a glorious crown.

His love to us, even us, extends,
'Tis always pure, immense, and free:
He now vouchsafes to call us friends,
And such may we forever be! Amen!

My Dear Sister

Mar: 13: 1789

Nothing very meterial has happened to myself or family since I wrote to you last. &c - - - - It is true that no affliction or trial is joyous for the present; but I trust we shall all profit some way or other by them. And it is wisdom to learn that lesson to live in the will of GOD, knowing that he cannot err. His Dispensations are puzzling and mysterious to the wisest; but no doubt they will ~~all~~ be all cleared up to us hereafter. One thing that is very wonderful is to see so much evil mixed with much good in the same persons, and among the christian world. The mystery of iniquity is still working, not only in the children of disobedience, but even in the children of GOD. I am not surprised that your Preacher Mr A - - is more and more astonished, and often cast down. I believe him to be an honest man; and I trust he will be rendered useful to the people. He knows but little yet of men or things, and of many things among the Meth - which perhaps might puzzle him; but let not him or any other be stumbled at these things, but simply go on their way, endeavouring to keep a tender conscience, and to walk in the light which they have received. I see more and more how liable we are to mistake one another, and we are too apt to judge one another, before we know the motives or reasons whereby any one was actuated. The Enemy also, and our own currupt hearts are very ready to put a worse construction upon mens actions than we need. Oh! when will this mystery of iniquity be done away! Tho' I have not yet doubted of the doctrine of Sanctification, as it has been preached among us; yet I have more fears that many of those who profess'd it, either did not possess it, or did not understand themselves, or the nature of that work. Among these I fear was Mrs - - - tho' I still hope well of her. She wrote to me in answer to your letter, but did not say much more. She says her evidence of that work has been often clouded; but she hopes to hold out to the end. I understand she has written to Mr W - - in favour of R - A - ; but Mr W - has positively forbid him to preach in our Societies. — That Man McQ - - seems to me to be in a dangerous way, even tho' he were sincere. Very few can bear exaltation, or to be praised. Thousands have fallen by this. However let the serious and judicious cherish what is good in him, and suspend their judgment a while for the rest which they cannot approve. The Devil can so well mimic a work of grace, that it is not easy to separate the wheat from the chaff. And you see (Math: 13. 30.) how we are bid to let them grow together sometimes, lest we should injudiciously pluck up the wheat. I had from the first doubts about them prophets &c of B. C. But there is one thing clear which you mention concerning them, and all others who act so; which is that they begin to despise the means, and consequently the Instruments by which GOD has been always pleased to work; this is wrong. ——

I think it best that the person you mention do not correspond with or answer the letters of that man who is now going abroad, I think they have reason to bless GOD that he has so far delivered them out of the snare. If after we are warned, and he has once or oftener delivered us, we again run into the danger, it is just that GOD leave us to ourselves, and let us smart for it. I believe this was the case with M - Fonvier. You may see more and more how treacherous the heart is, and that we cannot depend upon ourselves at all. Your business is to keep looking to GOD, and not trusting yourself. GOD will assuredly take care of you and yours. Look back, and trace his hand in ten thousand instances.

We have had a wonderful rejoicing here last tuesday night on account of the King being recovered from his late disorder. I had an oppertunety of seeing the illuminations thro' the City, as I had four miles to walk home after

To Miss Anne Creighton

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him. Psalms 126. 6.

Thy breast still heaves with silent grief,
Thy cheek is oft bedew'd with tears:
Thou seek'st the shade to find relief,
But still art fill'd with doubts and fears.

The world, thou see'st, is full of guile,
The wicked over the good prevail:
The hypocrites with courtly smile,
Can tell their soft, their pleasing tale.

Your feet begin almost to slip,
To see how satan reign below:
Of joy that just men scarcely sip,
Their cup is so much dash'd with woe.

'Tis strange indeed, 'tis myst'ry all,
But why should living man complain?
Let us in silence prostrate fall,
And wait till God himself explain.

His children he will not forsake,
Nor leave them always here to mourn:
The victory to himself he'll take,
And cheer them all at his return.

To them it seems a little long,
Who underneath the altar lie:
But soon they'll sing the nuptial song,
And meet the Bridegroom in the sky.

Exulting thought! O blissful day,
When all the saints shall meet above:

And all shall chaunt the sounding Lay,
"Behold my Lord, my Life, my Love!"

How long did pious Anna wait,
But saw at length the Infant mild:
And Simion too, with faith replete,
Beheld, ador'd and bless'd the child.

Thy fancy paints a Scene of woe
Ten thousand evils yet to come:
Which seem on ev'ry side to grow
As embryos in the teeming womb.

Thy tender sympathizing heart
Can feel for children not thine own:
Thou bear'st the load, and shar'st the smart,
And oft in secret makest thy moan.

But shall my sister always weep,
Or shall she always bear this load?
No.— they, who now in Jesus sleep
With him shall one day see their GOD.

The virgin souls shall brightest glow,
Whose robes are wash'd from ev'ry stain;
More white and pure than virgin snow,
And thus shall evermore remain.

In tribulation's thorny path
They walk'd and follow'd Jesus here:
At length he led them safe thro' death,
And dried up ev'ry briny tear.

Behold! the lovely Bridegroom stands
And reaches out the crown he bought:
He soon shall clothe the virgin bands
In vestures which himself hath wrought. †
My sister too shall join the Choir,
Exalting with the spotless train; † Psal: 45. v 3-4.

to a place 25 miles south from this, where the air is excellent, but as it rained a good deal, I could not walk out so much as I wished, however I got some benefit; but I hoped to have got another fortnight to the sea, and would have gone but Dr C— went out of Town sooner than I thought, and I am wanted on the Sundays. He has not sailed yet till about the midle of this month. Mr Cornock & Owens sailed for the west Indias last week, the Dr brings two or three more with him when he goes. If they keep humble and simple, they may do well. I know Mr A— a little who now lodges with you. I think he was with me the day I preached on Strachining. We had a blessed time that morning near Dunawly at a house where I administered the Sacrament to about a dozen of people— Sickness of various kinds prevailed here for three months, sweeping away many people. My family is midling at present, exept my maid who is growing worse and I suppose will never be right well. I am going to send A— to a boarding school. having had her at home since Christ— some time ago we were considering what to do with her and were utterly at a loss, as I could not afford to pay for her (for M— costs me 20 guineas a year) A few days after a schoolmistress who lives at Westminster, came to my house, and offered to take one of my Daughters to school her for a time, I shall have to pay for her writing and some little expences, her clothing also. &c —

About six weeks ago a woman, with whom I was not acquainted, bought of a Linnen Draper, and sent by him to my house, a piece of Linnen for myself, another for my wife and children, and two pair of sheets, I suppose the whole cost seven or eight guineas. many I believe pity me much. Our people are harassed with constant collections of various kinds, & among the rest Dr C—s collections for the Missions. Tho' it is good to propagate the gospel abroad.— yet there are heathens enough in our own Country. —Has a kind of zeal, but it seems something like that of Jehu I suppose he is useful in some things, especially the externals or temporal affairs of the Meth— in various parts; but it seems to me he has little depth in divine things, or light into the word of God, and no wonder for he cannot take time for these things, as he is so taken up with other things.— He has done much harm in Dublin by forcing them to have prayers and preaching at White friars at 11 oclock, which they had not before; and when the principal members waited on him to request him to lay aside the thought, he treated them with the greatest contempt. When they met among themselves to consult about this matter, Dr C— got in among them some way and disturbed them and opposed every thing they proposed, and then went at bedtime to inform the —— of all that had passed; he went ~~on purpose~~ D to meet him on his arrival, and acts as a spy for the — so we may judge what the government will be, when he is privy Counsellor. Mr —— pretends that we are not separated, yet I and others think we cannot be more separated than we are, especially since the —— has persuaded him to ordain the Preachers, contrary to all his former declarations. This has grieved and hurt the minds of most of those that were upright and sincere; and there is much harm done in Dublin where the work flourished for some years past. The pretence assigned for having ~~the Preachers ordained~~ service at 11 oclock is to prevent our people from going at that hour to hear Calvinists, also that by having the prayers read the people will be kept to the church; but this is all a mere juggling trick, and quibbling about the word Church; for men may dispute for ever about the word, and not agree about the meaning of it. &c &c —

To preach or read prayers in Church hours, to have Ordination, or administer the sacrament, is in some sense a separation from the established Church, and contrary to what the Methodists were 30 years ago, and contrary to the declarations they then made. That changes should come we need not at all wonder, when we consider the church in every age. We see how it was with various Churches and their ministers even before St. John's death. We know that human nature is still the same. Some will start up like Diotrephes, who aim at having the preeminence, and pride that busy sin, creeps in in ten thousand different shapes. When men, and also Churches, were poor and vile in their own eyes, then they flourished, and were esteemed in GOD's eyes, for he always dwells with the humble, but the proud he knoweth afar off. When Churches, as well as individuals are persecuted, then they keep close to GOD, and each other; but when this ceases, or when they are at ease, then the Devil divides them, or they grow proud, and forget GOD. This seems to me to be the case with many Meth.s; tho' still, as you say, I trust the greater part of them are still upright; and as far as we know, the body is still the best among the professing world. There are doubtless many upright and sincere among all denominations. Let it be our chief concern to keep ourselves pure. We must shortly leave the stage to others to act their parts. Indeed we cannot but be concerned for our children; and it is the most puzzling question to know what body of people to recommend them to join in the rising generation, as that people that may be purest to day, may be the most grossly fallen in 30 or 40 years hence. We can only pray for them, and leave them in the care of that GOD who took care of us, and who we are assured, will always have a Church upon Earth, and who pulleth down one, and setteth up another, as it seems good to him. We need not be surprised, nor staggered when we hear of the gross falls of one or more here and there. These things were so, and will be so. Where there are divisions in a Society or only between two, it does harm to the rest, and hinders those that are without from coming in. All you can do is to pray that the breach may be healed between those two persons; and there is always danger in attending to one story without hearing the other side of the question, and often it is not easy to determine. Some can tell their story better than others, and often the upright person is cast down, but he will rise again, and GOD will appear in his behalf. B.— M. D. gave me a general acct. of his experience but did not mention particulars. He speaks of his fall, and being restored about a year afterwards. He says first he grew cold thro' neglect of private prayer; then the Devil laid a powerful snare for him, and by it slew him this is all he says on that point; It is possible he might have fallen by it, and yet not be guilty in the gross sense.— Oh! that all would magnify the great Jehovah, who still bringeth mighty things to pass! Let his name be exalted upon Earth!——

As to the circumstance you mention, I can say little about it, as I do not know the person, and perhaps if I did I should be easily deceived. We do not know ourselves, and how can we know others? We are changeable, and none can promise what he shall be on the morrow. We are first and chiefly to look for grace in the person, as far as we can judge, next a degree of common sense, and some prudence to conduct temporal affairs, and if with those a little portion of this worlds goods can be got, to be above absolute want, the better. It is the most difficult thing imaginable either for one self; or their friends to judge in these matters.

As to the preachers who are laid aside this year in Ireland, let us not wonder; only let us pray and be the more watchful lest we fall, We must endeavour to put the best construction we can on every thing. As to W—t let us think nothing about him, perhaps he is right, or not so bad as we imagined. Perhaps he is growing better; or if not, let us leave him to God, who will in his own time discover those who do not serve him in sincerity. J. Bredin says there was a very good Conference in Dublin, and much honesty and love among the Preachers. Dr C— will not suffer vice, if he can discover it, whatever he may be in other respects.— We must look to the Lord and not to man; and often look at ourselves. The Christians in all times had perhaps the same things to complain of that we have, tho' in different ways, they learned experience by the things they suffered, and now they are landed safe. Oh!

"When will the affliction be o'er, when will the fierce agony cease;
With those that are gathered before, we press to the haven of peace!"

I know not what success my pamphlet will have. I want only to defray the expence. I had no design in it, either for profit or fame. Some here and at Bristol receive it well, I was much caressed last sunday on my coming home. &c &c. ——Oh! ~~shall I praise~~ Such things hath God wrought for a poor unworthy worm! Oh! how shall I praise him to all Eternity! give my love to all friends.— Yours ever. J. C.

London Aug.t 22 1780

My Dear Sister

Just at the close of Conference I wrote to R, and was then beginning to be very ill; tho I had strove to keep up for two or three days before; but since then has been a time of severe affliction, and sore conflicts of mind with me. I had a severe fever, and a heavy cold, which I caught in the middle of the Conf: there were many Preachers ill at the same time, there has been a fever and kind of cold very common here for ten months past. In two or three days I lost all the strength which I had got at Dover; and tho I am a little better got I am very feeble, and little flesh left. I had a violent pain in my head, and after the fever was abated the pain continued, which is thought to be the rheumatism, which I have also in my left shoulder. What was worst my patience has been almost worn out, after so many years of affliction; and a fear lest I should not be able to hold out, if the Lord should still lay more upon me before my departure. He may easily lay ten thousand times more upon me [illegible] than he has done yet; but if he gives patience or support in proportion then all is well. We cannot tell what shall be tomorrow either as to body or mind. Surely we are poor creatures. With respect to my family I dare not think about them, for it would hurt me and do them no good. I must leave them entirely to the mercy of God: and perhaps they may get thro' better than if I had thousands to leave them. The Lord is a rich provider; and surely none of our family have any reason to distrust him. What wonders ~~hath~~ has he done, when we look back, and see his hand! yet now and then our faith begins to grow weaker, and then we begin to sink. It is no wonder that so many things are spoken of faith. It is the safest, and the only way by which we must come at last, after all our reasonings.—

I see the hand of God in correcting us all in so extraordinary a manner.
May it answer a good end upon us! We are too cold and dead, and can get
little good from others around us; or at least, we have little oppertunity of
being with those who have much life. I am going out of Town for eight days
to a place 25 miles off in a good air; I then mean to return, and perhaps go
for another while to Dover if I can; in order to brace me a little before the
winter sets in. If I do not get some strength before the winter, it is most
probable this winter will finish me. It is a very sickly time now in
London. Many are dying of fevers. — One night whilst I was at Do=
ver was an awful night of lightening and rain. The Inhabitants of the
Town were alarmed; and it set some to pray who had thought little a=
bout it before. A Ball of fire broke thro' the window and burst in the room
between a man and his wife and children; but they were not hurt. The
woman had been of our Society; but for some months neglected her class;
but the next day she came running to it, and her husband also attended
preaching, saying he did not know what he was been doing all his lifetime.

John Atlay, who kept and sold the Books for 15 years past is going a
way to Yorkshire his native place, to take a society of 760 members
and a preaching house to himself. The occasion was this, these peo
ple some time ago built a new preaching House, and mentioned some
conditions to Mr W— beforehand, which they say he agreed to them, namely,
that the Trustees should have leave to reject a Preacher, if his conduct was
not agreeable to them. They were to call in three Assistants from the
neighbouring Circuits, who were to hear the case but if the majority of the
Trustees were not against him, he was to continue. This matter has
been talked of for 10 months past; and at the late Conference, the chief of the
Conference would not agree to it, notwithstanding what Mr W— had pro=
mised them, and as it would be a bad precedent, they determined if the
Trustees would not settle the house entirely at the will of the Conference,
they would withdraw their preachers from them; which accordingly is now
done; and the Trustees have called Mr Atlay to be their minister indepen=
dant of Conference. This will cause a great noise here and elsewhere. I
expect there will be more revolutions soon; as many are not satisfied in
their minds about many things. May we be kept simply looking to
Jesus, 'till he shall say unto us — "come up hither." — I commend you all
to the mercy of God. I trust he who hath kept you hitherto will keep you
to the end: and that we shall all meet at last in the peaceful haven.

Amen.

Our love to all friends — Yours J. L.

My Dear Sister — London Octr 3: 1788

I recd your Letter. I had been longing to hear from some of you
as I had ~~h~~ heard ~~from~~ nothing for near 3 months, I feared all was not well,
surely in the midst of life we are in death, and we know not what a day
may bring forth, so that tho' we may be pretty well when we write our
Letter, we may have departed off this stage before the other has received it.
I wrote to you before I left town; I suppose you have received it. I am bless
ed be God, a great deal better than when I wrote it. I am at that time

I wrote the following below on my return from Sheerness. Adieu! we know not what a day may bring forth, so that this may be the last you will receive from your affectionate Brother — — — — J. C.

The Island of Sheppy (so called from the great number of Sheep which it feeds) is situated at the mouth of the river Thames about 12 miles long, & 6 or 8 broad, separated from the main land of Kent by a narrow river, In it there is a high hill about 3 miles south east from Sheerness, from it is a pleasing and extensive prospect, in it stands an old Church. Here I was shewn the Tomb of a Lord Cheny. The tradition concerning whom is this. — I think he lived in the reign of Queen Eliz:h and was banished to this Island for the following crime. (for it was a place of banishment in those times) This nobleman, riding out somewhere in his neighbourhood one day, met some people returning with a corpse from the grave without burying it, as the Parson refused to bury it without the fees. Lord Cheny hearing this, was filled with indignation, and sent for the Parson, and buryed him alive in the grave that had been dug. He was banished, as before observed, to the Isle of Sheppy, where he lived a considerable time, but when the Queen in her yatch lay over in the ~~river~~ sea near the Island, he made application for his pardon, and on his riding and swiming a famous horse round the Queen's vessel (some say three times round) he was pardoned. Immediately on his coming ashore, and alighting from his horse, an old woman prophesied, and told him that that horse would be the cause of his death; on which he drew his sword and killed the horse on the spot. Twenty years afterwards, as he ~~he~~ was walking with other persons on the shore, he met the bones of the horse, and kicking some of them said in a kind of mocking ~~way~~ "This is the horse that the old woman said would kill me". A splinter of one of the bones pierced his toe, which mortified, and so he died. Behind his Effigy on the tomb, is cut in stone the head of a horse, and the weather cock of the Church is cut in form of a horses head. ———

London July 24: 1780

My Dear Sister

I rec.d your Letter yesterday. I arrived at home safe last saterday, and thank GOD, am wonderfully restored by bathing in the Sea, and the air about the shore. I spent 3 weeks at Dover, & a week at Canterbury. I had been near a fortnight away before, as I mentioned to you, at Chatham and Sheerness. If I can retain that state in which I am now, I shall think my self very well. My family are pretty well at present; they had been ill when I was away. Our people at Dover are poor and few in number, but I found them simple and loving, and I had a comfortable time among them, especially at the Sacrement which was indeed a feast to them, and they wish that I could make it convenient to go to them once a quarter. There are some of them, if not most, who have been tried in so extraordinary a manner, some for 20 years, and some more, and yet by the power of divine grace have stood, as is most astonishing; because their trials are of such a kind as is most contrary to nature. Some wives with their husbands, and some husbands with their wives, and an old man with his rebellious children. Indeed the people of Kent in general seem to have little feelings, like other people, which perhaps is, owing partly to the air and Climate. It is very hard to work upon them in preaching, as a preacher told me; but if they get any thing of real religion ~~once~~ they are immoveable as rocks. There are few instances of backsliders where the work was once real. —

I had occasion to make many observations and reflections on the country & people, and other things; and the excursion has been agreeable to me, and profitable both to my soul and body. The hills are exceeding high at Dover, and hang in dreadful Cliffs over the sea, all of chalky rocks; most parts of the Cliff are twice as high as the ~~at the~~ weather cock on the Steeple at C--n; some of them 200 feet or more. I could see the coast of France with the naked eye, and with a glass, I could discern houses and Church steeple at Calais. It is but 21 miles across, and many of the Preachers take a trip over to see the Country. Conference begins here next monday, we expect most, if not the Preachers will be in on saterday. Mr. Wesley is very well, just returned from his tour thro' Scotland and the north of England. On my return home I got a packet containing two Letters from J. & Ja. McDowell. Wm. gives me a long account of his experience before he left Ireland, and says the Preachers want him to go out as a traveling Preacher; but he is very diffident, and yet he is in distress of mind about it, and desires to have my advice. a Preacher brought him with him last summer 550 miles north from Charles Town, and forced him to speak or exhort in some places; but he returned home by himself, having traveled twelve hundred miles in ten weeks. He traveled a great deal in Virginia and saw amazing work of GOD. from 10 to 15 found peace in a day. he was at preachings where the people would not leave the place for 14 hours at a time crying for mercy; they wanted him to stay with them if it was only to teach them to sing; but he would not stay. On his return home thro' the woods, he would often ride 16 or 18 miles without meeting a house. He lost his desires for the salvation of souls, fell into horrible darkness and fear, such as he could not describe. In this state he tied his horse to a tree, lay down, and slept in the woods, regardless of bears, or wolves, or other things. When he arose he strove to pray a few words, at last got home safe, lives with his brother. But his mind is on the wreck for fear of punishment. this fear was renewed in a wonderful manner shortly before he wrote to me, at which time he was thinking of altering his condition. I intend to write to him soon, and mean to encourage him to go out in the name of the Lord.— J-- also writes pretty largely, seems to have good impressions, and I trust he will do well. He speaks of a Letter which Brock wrote to him when he lay at Dublin, which was a word in season; but the Regiment was soon ordered away.— I was a good deal affected in reading these Letters. We are scattered over the Globe; but Oh! if we are gathered into the fold, and arrive safe in Port at last, then all will be well. I hope we will.— The whole nature of this state of probation is nothing else but afflictions, tribulations, and disappointments, and opposition often even from them that are traveling to Zion. A woman who died triumphant at Canterbury about a week before my return home, desired the Preachers, if they did preach a sermon for her, to speak from them words in the Rev:— These are they who have come out of great tribulation &— She had suffered much from her husband. I forget the particulars of her case, but it was very remarkable. The man who related it to me is the Steward, who often visited her in her illness; he is a Prussian by birth, and such a man of faith, (as to trusting GOD in temporals, as I never met before) He would encourage any Society, and his broken English and manner was very pleasing to me. His manner is quick and warm which is quite opposite to the people of Kent. GOD has brought him thro' wonderfully in temporals, so that he cannot doubt now.

things beneath the sun; but ah! how prone are we to grovel here below, and set our hearts on Toys! I strive not to think or puzzle myself about my children; for if I would let the thought dwell with me, it would do me no good; and yet no one has greater need to act faith in this respect than I have. There is nothing but a prospect of my children coming to hardships in a temporal sense; and yet it may be better with them than I can see; and if it is ill with them in this respect, it may be for their spiritual good. I am in more trouble for my wife, as she cannot bear that I should mention my death, and is in a kind of stupidity so as not to attend to any directions which I might give; therefore I am thinking of leaving them in writing for her, lest she should forget them. tho' her affection to me is great; yet I think it is too much of the creature kind; I want it to be of a more refined nature; and it is not easy to get people right in this respect, as they are ever going to one extreme or other. M— has not sense at present to write to you; but I hope in a few years she will be able to do it. She does not want sense according to her age and opportunity; but I can't say that she has what we may properly call a work of grace upon her mind yet; but she is naturally inclined to be less light and trifling than others.

About the begining of April, I had been confined; but they forced me out to attend Mr C. Wesley's funeral; which hurt me again, as it was very cold and we had a quarter of a mile to walk from his house to the Church. He ordered himself to be buried at the Church of the parish where he lived; which gave offence to the Meth.ᵈ — but I judge he did it chiefly to shew his consistancy even to death; as he had said so much against a separation in his life time. There were nine Clergymen, eight bore the Pall, and one read the service. His wife, Daughter and two sons walked as chief mourners; and after them about 34 of our chief members in cloaks. Had it been at our new Chapel, it would have been a greater affair but in his life time, he did not like any thing that was pompous. It is said that in conversation with one of the Preachers some time before his death, he desired him to tell his Brother that he would follow him in a year, and advised him to beware of flatterers about him. The Preacher wrote this to him, and recᵈ a sharp answer &c. — — — Alas! what is man, even at his best estate! He had always flatterers about him. This and several other things grieve his Brother, and in my judgment contributed to shorten his days, tho' he was entered into his 80th year.

The lines which I wrote on his death, which I sent you, are now printed by a friend; I had no thoughts about writing, but was wishing to see something upon him; when this man, sent me word by my Daughter, to write something on Mr C. W— I immediately reply'd, I could not, as indeed, I don't know any one in England capable of doing him justice in this respect; for, he thought himself not fit to write an Elegy on Mr Fletcher, and who is fit to do it for him? but in a Minute after I had denied, the first line of those I sent you came to my mind. I then wrote three verses that night and most of the rest the next morning before I went to the funeral; I then sent them to the man, and desiring that my name should not be mentioned, as I have various reasons. &c —

I shall endeavour to go a while to the sea somewhere if I can, you may direct to me as usual. I hope our Aunt is saved. The more I know & hear, the more I am convinced, many will be saved, who do not leave a clear testimony behind them; and yet it is a thing greatly to be wished. tho' I do not fear Death, yet I fear the work is not compleat which I want and perhaps the Lord is sparing me to

refine me more. Oh! that all my Dross was taken away! The work does not prosper here, nor is it ~~to be expected~~ any wonder, many reasons might be assigned, but the conduct of some in a public capacity has done hurt, three Local Preachers have caused the Enemy to blaspheme. Two of them became bankrupts one for six thousand Pounds; he was a Hosier. A third a joiner, it seems is noted for extortion in his Bills for work done. —— I see that our King has his troubles in his family, as well as in the State. We had good hopes concerning the second son, who has been abroad some years; but his Brother and other bad company have made him as bad as himself. He has lost a great Estate lately at gaming, as they spend much of their time in that foolish & hurtful way. There was a General Carpenter, who was in favour with the King; and was often about his person; who coming into his presence one morning soon after the Duke lost his Estate; the King asked him if he was present the other night when his son had lost his Estate? Carpenter replied, "I was, please your Majesty." — The King then said with a keen glance, — "Well done, Carpenter, so you could stand by cooly to see my son fleeced of his Estate by sharpers and villains; well, done; this is a good return you make me for all the favours I have conferred on you." and he then turned his back towards him, or left him. This was so keen and mortifying, that the other could not bear it; and poor wretch, he had no other resource than to go shortly into Hide park, and drown himself in a river. Such, or somewhat similar is the end of many of our modern Infidels, who cannot brook disappointments, and hope to annihilate themselves; but, alass! enter upon a more miserable scene. — Let us bless God for the light we enjoy, and let us live agreeable to it. — Farewell. J. C.

My Dear Sister June 10: 1788

Tho' I am much hurried at present, yet I strive to write you a few lines before I leave Town, which I mean to do tomorrow morn. at 5 o'clock, to go to Canterbury, where I mean to stay two or three days and then go to Dover, where I mean to stay a fortnight, and then return home, God willing. I have been lately abroad at Chatham and Sheerness, in the latter of which places I bathed a few days, and find that the salt water does me good. But I don't expect ever to recover my flesh, as I am nothing but skin and bone. I have been getting my Pamphlet printed, being an Elegy on Mr. Ch: Wesley. There is another published at the same time by Mr. Kenton, an intimate friend of Mr. Ch: W— there were two or three other little things printed before by others, but I believe Mr. Kenton's and mine are reckoned the best that has yet appeared. As I was led into this matter, and urged to it by some, without any premeditated design of mine, I have frequently thought that I have been supernaturally assisted in it. Whether this is so or not, the thinking so does me no harm. Perhaps the Lord means to bring something good out of it for myself and to stop the mouths of those who despise me. I bless God I have the favour of the people in general, notwithstanding all that has happened hitherto, and I am fully persuaded that all things are working together for my ~~good~~ present and eternal good. — But I have still to complain of my self, that I am so cold, and lifeless in the good way. I think I got some little advantage in a spiritual sense whilst I was abroad; for it is good both for Preacher & hearers to change sometimes. The country Societies in general are more lively and simple than the people here, tho there are many precious Souls here.

I have not time to say much now; perhaps I may write to you shortly by post,
The Bearer son to our Sister T.— it seems has been at Sea, having been pressed about half a year ago; and being discharged at Chatham made this his way home &c — As all our family have been much tossed on a Sea of distress, I take it as a token for good, and I trust we shall all have cause to sing louder our Redeemer's praise when we get safe to the Havan, It cannot be long, most of us seem to be in sight of Port. Let faith & patience hold out a little longer. You have heard of the Death of Mr Ch. Wesley I ~~have~~ wrote the enclosed in a hurry a few days ago. There are many things written and writing on the occasion, I suppose some of those that are reckoned good will be incerted in the Maggazine. A man from Portsmouth invited me to go down there partly to preach, and partly for my health. I have a mind to try if I can get leave to go, I look upon it as a providential. We are to use means, and leave the event to him. Farewell! I can say nothing new; — But Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday and to day & for ever! To him be glory praise &c —

my love to all. — J. C

May 3d. 1788

My Dear Sister

~~and I have never~~ Your Letter I recd in due time, which gave me consolation I have gone thro' a great deal of affliction and trials for three months past. the comfort I found at Christmass was only preparatory for this. The Dispensations of Providence are all given in weight and measure and intended to work for our good some way or other. I think I felt even in the worst part of the trials some conviction that they were working some way for my good, tho' they were grievious. And yet when I reflect a little, they might be still greater, yea a thousand fold. Oh! what poor creatures are we; and how little can we bear! — It has pleased the Lord to give me now a little breathing, as myself and family are better. Myself and Maid indeed are still poorly; however, as I am pretty free from the cough, I think my lungs are still safe. I applied a small blister to my breast, which with other means, I think was of use. I had some hopes lately of having got to the Sea for some time, and the Physician thought it might be of use. But there is some damp cast on it. A man of our Society at Portsmouth being here some time ago invited me to go there partly to open a new preaching House, and partly for my health. When I thought a little upon it, I looked upon it as providential, and agreed to go, but desired the man first to consult the people at Portsmouth. I had a Letter from him a few days ago, letting me know that upon his first mentioning it, the people seemed pleased and desirous of my going; But as it was necessary to consult some others, (whom he does not mention) there was a damp cast upon it. My maid is now at home, having been six months at an Hospital, and is little better; as she can scarcely walk. We were tried a good deal with strange maids, as they were good for little. — As to Church affairs we must cease from man, for all are poor defective creatures, and put our whole trust and confidence in the living God. I have often thought that the people who are ignorent of our affairs there, and the conduct of some leading men, were happier ignorent, as they could serve God in sincerity without knowing these things. I do not say that those who act contrary to my judgment are wrong; for what am I! I know but little; but I know more of affairs here than does me good.

I think whilst the Meth^s. mingled with the people of the Church that they had an opportunity of doing them good, for by their conversation, and even by disputeing, they are brought to examine doctrines, and other things which they did not think of before. But the Presbyterians do little good now, as the papists and the people of the Church have no disputing with them about these matters, and Satan loves this kind of peace. If the Methodists become a Separate body in, in every sense of the word, as D^r. C— and some of the P— — seem determined, they will soon be of little use as the Presbyterians. Tho' it gives pain to hear false doctrine or dead formal Discourses in the Churches; yet I don't think this can hurt the Sensible Meth^s. as much as some imagine, as they have so many blessed oppertunities and other priveleges. However, you have nothing to do but quietly go on as you have done. Some of the P—s seem fond to get gowns on themselves. I could wish that J. B. was preserved from this contagion, but as he is young he will be borne down by the rest. You might enter into reasoning a little with him on the subject. Ask him does he think that his word will have more power to reach the heart when he puts on a gown. Has GOD converted so many thousands in past years by plain honest men, and does he want any other now? or does he stand in need of men at all to carry on his work? tho' he has been pleased to use them. After I was converted I was inclined to throw off the gown, 'till I met that word in S^t. Paul's writings— "Let every man abide in that calling wherein he is called" and I have often reflected since that Gownes (tho' they are nothing in themselves) have done more harm than good in the Church. The people are taught to think ~~more highly~~ that there is something more than common in them; and the person that wears them is apt to think more highly of himself when he has it on. It is a usual practice here now in Moorfields and other places, for the lowest and most ignorent creatures that don't belong to any particuler people, to get some kind of a Gown to flant away in, and make a great noise, and wheel round and round and throw up his arms to let the people see what a figure he makes. I stopped yesterday evening a few minutes to see one of this description, and could not but pity him. What M^r. Wesley says of dress, is eminently true of these gowns, that it has a natural tendancy to make us think better of our selves, and he appeals to every sincere honest person, and let them say what they feel within when they put on a new or fine coat &c. Oh! pride, pride, that busy sin, how does it creep in, or rather it is already within, and we need not throw oil upon the fire, which is already burning strong enough.— As to going to America, the greatest encouragement that I see at present is, that religion spreads so wonderfully. We have amazing accounts, especially from Virginia. In respects to temporals, there are doubts on my mind; &c &c ————

After all that can be said upon this, or the like occation, we must leave ourselves and our concerns in the hands of the wise Governor of the world, and use our reason and light as well as we can. GOD has wonderfully brought us thro' hitherto, and by and by we shall lie down to rest, I trust, in a hope of rising again to everlasting life. Afflictions and adversity are not joyous; but they are necessary medicine, and riches and ease are dangerous: We see many instances of this in our day. GOD wisely takes many methods with us in order to wean us from the creature, and all

I did not find any remarkable happiness on the day of the covenant tho' I did feel the Lord present in the day, for there being such a croud and bustle, and some are admitted tho' not without a Ticket that don't belong to us; it is not so solemn as I could wish. Some time before, as a sensible man and I were conversing about the late plans and proposed alterations &c, he said—"if they do so, and so, one may write Ichabod on it."— I recollected something about that word, and was resolved to look for it, and see the passage; but did not do it immediately. On the covenant day in the afternoon when I retired a little before I went out, I opened the Bible, without thinking of that passage, and just met with it, and read the chapter (1 Sam: 4. 21.) whether this be a bad omen for Meth.—m I will not say; but it looks as if the glory was departing. Yet the numbers are encreasing and the work reviving in many places; and we must hope the best.— As to that work at R— — & and other places, I can say little about it. The Devil mimicks and works greatly upon such occations, and especially upon the ignorent. I hope Mr M— — will have prudence to act wisely among them. I hope well of J. B.—, if he continues humble; but many that were so in the beginning, forget themselves; and perhaps when they saw some among the old ones afterwards, it turned them aside, or made them less conscientious or less watchful afterwards. There are many snares laid for our feet as we travel thro' this wilderness. I think Bro.r L— has a trying place in R— — . And Miss B—s affair and these other backsliders will not be easily forgot and no credit or advantage to the cause of religion there. But in these things also we must hope the best. It is thro' much tribulation we must enter the kingdom. Let him endeavour to hold fast his integrity, and perhaps things will turn out better in the end. Instance Job. Jacob said "all these things are against me," yet they turned out for the good of him and his family in the end. I confess that it is easy to speak of these things, and every one is ready to assent to the theory; but it is not easy to stand still in the fire, and wait for the salvation which GoD is about to work out for us. I find one good way is to look back, and see what GoD hath already done for us, when we were seemingly in as great a straight, and then say to ourselves, "is he not the same still? Is his hand shortened?" It will do him no good to fret about his Children. I endeavour to put away that thought, tho' it will sometimes thrust itself in. &c In— —I don't know what trade to recommend to T.— — He will be exposed to evil every where, so that you will be obliged to leave him to GoD in that respect. —&c May the wise Counsellor direct you in all things! I often think of that word of St. John—the unction of the holy one shall guide you. I believe this is pecculierly necessary in ten thousand little circumstances where no human Being can direct. I hope our Aunt J— will get ~~away~~ safe away tho' she may not leave a bright testimony behind her. Many instances of this kind I believe there will be. Yet the greater the light we have rec.d the clearer should be our testimony, and yet even in this respect some of the most eminent servants of GoD have been in a cloud shortly before their departure. (witness Tho.s Walsh.) And some ~~have~~ having been anxious in this respect GoD did not see fit to grant their desire for reasons best known to himself. perhaps they had a kind of pride in going off the stage in a triumphant manner.—Oh! how many are gone off the stage since we can remember! "And we are to the margin come, and we expect to die."—
There is many talking about the Millenium now, and writing, and I fear many false Prophets are gone out into the world. There are a people who call themselves the new Jerusalem Church, who retain many if not all the wild Tenants of Baron Swedenburg. Some write that hell torments will have an end.

Others that there is no such thing. Some say that there is no moral evil in the world. Therefore all that that we call sin is quite right, another in a letter to Mr. Wesley, speaking of the Trinity calls it the three headed Monster. Another says that Mr. W— is the beast, and his Bro.r Ch.s the false prophet spoke of in the revelations. Many such ridiculous things are said, and propagated in this kingdom and in others, it seems as if Satan is very busy for his kingdom knowing that he has but a short time. Many strive to lay aside the written word, and say Lo, the truth is here, or lo it is there. It is a blessing that we have that word, and we are commanded to try the Spirits, and doctrines, by it. Happy they who have the inward testimony, and also the written word to strengthen and support them in the trying days; for, trying times will come before the end; and it is said that the false prophets will have great power to work even miracles. When I think of these things, I feel for my Children and others of the rising generation; and yet again, I must leave them in his hands who is able to teach them, and to keep them from being tossed to and fro with every wind of contrary doctrine. Oh! what error and confusion has sin brought into the world! Some say that Heaven itself is only a place of probation, and that those who do ill, will be sent down here again to be punished, or tried, or I know not what stuff and nonsense. From all such good Lord deliver us!—

You did right in not going from Cavan on the Covenant night &c— It is not easy to convince others that our motives are good often times as they do not see them, till they have formed their judgment. This should make us ready to bear a great deal with others, as we may not know all the motives they had for acting so and so, Oh! when will this dark, confused scene of things be done away. A good deal of my time is spent in visiting the sick and burying the dead, so that I may say "in the midst of life I am in death". There is a large burying-Ground on the other side opisite to our Chapel, it is amazing to see what multitudes are buried ~~there~~ in it; I suppose about four one day with another thro' the year. They are mostly Dissenters who are buried in it. Bunyan's tomb is there, and many others great and good men of the last Century. also Mr. Wesley's mother. Some have often applied to this burying ground what Dr. Young says in his night thoughts— "Where is the dust that has not been alive?"

Our love to all friends— J. C—

My Dear Sister ~~April~~ April 13th 1780

Having this opportunity I send you a few lines to let you know that I am still in this vale of sorrow, tho' for some time past I seemed to be just stepping out of it. As I have wrote to my Brothers, I suppose ~~that~~ they have let you know my situation. I trust every thing is working for good, tho' they are not joyous but grievious to flesh and blood. This persuation helps to bear me up under the weight of my various afflictions. I am in the hands of the wise Physician, and I am sure what he prescribes cannot be ill. I have some times been ready to say that it takes a great deal to to kill one outright; but, then again how often is a person cut off in a moment! there is a need for all God's dealings with us; he wants to purify us, and cut off every thing that cleaves to us which is offensive to himself Oh! what trouble do we give him to effect this entire cure!—

There are two other Clergymen in the west of Ireland, and I hear of also another; but I know not where he lives. Perhaps the Lord is about to raise up many witnesses in the Church, to provoke the Meth— to jealousy, as he formerly raised up them to provoke the ~~Methodists~~ Clergy. Our King has been afflicted for some months past, and all the nation is afflicted on his account. &c &c— — — It is feared there will be confusion, and perilous times; and it behoves those who fear GOD to be incessant in supplications. They have enjoyed great liberty since this family came to the Throne, but many have fears, because the Prince is privately married to a Papist Lady; and tho' the nation will never acknowledge her for Queen; yet she may do harm, and she may learn some of the secrets of Government from him, and then btray them to our Enemies. — We expect also some revolutions among the Methodists, as Mr. W— seems to droop very much, tho' he goes on in his usual way; but his eye sight is greatly failed. He struggles hard and is not willing to give it up. He is obliged to make me or one of the clergy to read the consecration service, when we have the sacrament at night, which he never did till of lately. Alass! we must all yield at last. But he is a wonderful man; in his 86th year his mental faculties are still very good, and his judgment clear. He goes on writing, and reading every thing that he meets with worth reading, or extracting. — I got a letter some time ago from Jst Black. I am glad to find there is a revival in so many places. Mr. W— told me he had a wonderful account of a work at Drumbullion. Is this true? I believe the most of the preachers now in Ireland are good zealous young men, and perhaps those that are otherwise will drop by degrees, therefore let us hope the best. The Lord will always carry on his work by some means; but it will not be confined to any particular Denomination. Let us beware lest he take away our candlestick out of its place.— It has been a severe frost here for five weeks past, which is very trying to the poor. &c &c The Lord is good, and I have no doubt but he will bring us thro' someway; and by and by we shall want neither fire, food, nor cloathing. — I conclude this the last day of the old year. Oh! that we may all enter upon the new one, if we are spared, with renewed vigour, fresh courage, and resolution; and may we devote our selves and our all to him and his service, who has preserved us, and done so great things for us! Next Sunday we renew our Covenant. Upon the whole I feel strong confidence that we shall all, some how, either on boards, or broken pieces of the ship, get safe to land. That verse is always peculiarly sweet to me: "There all the ship's company meet," &c I get up these mornings at 5 to admin.r the sacrement during the 12 days of Chris.s I sleep mostly near the Chapel, and am forced to leave my family in peril of robers; against whom there is no guarding; they have often got in and robed many of our most religious friends. Farewell— — yours for ever J: C—

My Dear Sister

London Feb: 7: 1788

I had been wondering why I had not heard from Bro.r R. feared that all was not well with him or his family. My family have been tolarably hitherto thro' the winter, and I myself got thro' pretty free from a cold till about ten days ago, when I caught a bad one. There is nothing I am so affraid of as this, because it is peculiarly dangerous to me. It brings me so very low, and I am so long before I get rid of it. I bless GOD, the state of my mind is upon the whole well, tho' I am much exercised various ways, from without and within. I was exceeding happy during the time of Christ.s particularly the night before I wrote

to Sh.— last, and another day in the following week the second of the new year, which is spent with a little company with whom I meet weekly, and we dine together ~~al~~ the begining of the year. I have not experienced so much of the power of GOD since, nor is it necessary perhaps, because we should not be capable of attending to outward things, which we must do as long as we are here. I seemed to experience at those two days above mentioned something like what is expressed in those beautiful lines of Mr. Gambold:

"So many wond'rous gleams of light, And gentle ardors from above,
Have made me sit like ~~sep~~ seraph bright, some moments on a throne of love.—"

At the time when I was in heaviness, after the trial which I mentioned to Sh.— a man who had been present at the meeting of the stewards &c, asked me if I believed that *that* trial also would work for good? I told him I believed it would. And it was so in a little time. I hope it will yet work for my good, tho' I cannot see any thing before me. I see for a certainty that trials and afflictions great and various will attend me all the way; but no matter what the nature of the trial be, if we are only supported in proportion. We surely need much washing, and often to be put into the furnace, before all our dross is taken away. We give GOD much trouble in this respect. Well, if the end is answered at last, all will be well. It is plain we cannot rely on any knowledge or grace we have attained; for, however far we have advanced in the road, we shall be in as great danger of falling, as when we first believed. How gracious is our GOD in not letting the babe see all the dangers he has to meet with in his way to the kingdom; lest he should be frighted, and turn back to Egypt. He is called to live and walk by faith. And take no thought for to morrow.——Mr. Wesley is seemingly very well, but his eye sight is much failed this winter. He means to travel to Scotland next summer. He wishes not to live to be useless, and that he may finish his life & his work together. Most people expect a revolution at his death, and that it will be a sifting time. Indeed even already is a trying time with some; and it is well for many both Preachers & people that they do not know what ~~is~~ passing is here. I don't meddle with things, and I chuse to live quiet. Mr. C. W— often says to them—"you call me a Micaiah; but I must speak what I think, and what I fear;" and then he quotes that Text in Zech.— 13, 8.9. "Two ~~third~~ parts shall be cut off, and the third shall be brought thro' the fire."— He does not approve of many things which his bro.r does, and he sees how many of them flatter him, to get favour with him to make him think well of them. He speaks much of humility, and some don't like him, because he sees thro' them, for he is very discerning. But let us hope the best, and endeavour to work out our time. But it is very difficult to know what advice to leave with our children, or what people to desire them to join. Certainly GOD will always have a people; and still the Metho.s are the best that we know at present, notwithstanding many individuals are a reproach.——I have been much tried concerning my children and their teachers. Maria can learn any thing she pleases. She is very discerning, and could not brook well their making a distinction between her and others. Poor thing she will have to meet with many snubs thro' life, but if she gets safe to the haven of rest all will be well. There is nothing so trying to our faith as to leave children behind us young; and yet many of these are better off than others; for they learn to bear the yoke of hardship in their youth. I can trust GOD, but depend less upon M— —now than I did. I ceace from man, and am led more to trust in the living GOD.—

feelings are more and more refined and consequently he feels every thing; but if he has grace or strength to bear it, all is well. — Two or three days after I wrote to you last, I caught cold by standing out at night at a funeral in our burying ground, and laboured under it long: and tho' I am better, I have still a cough. My straits in temporals for most of Octr and Novr were exceeding great; as I could raise no money by any means, tho' I attempted to borrow; I owed a great deal of money at the same time, and I could not go to any of those who had been my benefactors. We were some time almost without food. I had some time before laid in a hundred weight of p - - s &c &c which supported my family after a manner. The Landlord did not call for the rent due; but the Tax gatherer had to call several times, and I had it not for him, which was very trying to me; as I never could be easy whilst I was in debt. I still believed these things would work some way for my good, but how I saw not. I endeavoured to stand still and see the salvation of GOD; but still I could not but think about these things every minute, and felt uneasiness; but I believe no murmuring; I sometimes indeed seemed to enquire in my mind, how far will GOD permitt me to be tried? I then fell sick, and was confined to bed by the before mentioned cold. I then began to consider whether I must lie and perish for want, or whether it was not my duty to make another effort, and make my case known; for I had repeatedly made my straits known to Dr C. and desired him to acquaint Mr W— who ordered me five guneas at or after Conference, and the Dr promised that he would speak to the steward to consider it; but there was nothing done. At last when in bed, I sent for the Preacher who travels with Mr — and stated my necessities and debt, desiring him to acquaint Mr W— with a full account of it; which he did and painted it out in the strongest colours. Mr W— pitied me; but still there was no relief, nor away pointed out. After some time I applied to him again in a more urgent manner. He told the man he had no money him self; would recommend it to a few friends of the rich to make a privite collection; which was since done by this preacher going about with a paper from Mr W— in which as I hear, he himself had subscribed five guneas. I had before this in the end of Novr got my salary which was due the midle of Octr and the steward gave me 5 guneas. As soon as I recd this I paid some of my debts, only keeping a little to subsist on. About that time Mr W— preached a close sermon against those who went in debt, without having a probability of paying. I believe he had some persons in view, not me, I was not condemned in my own conscience, as all my life I strove against it. — But see the mercy of GOD! on Mony the 22d of Decr the day I recd your letter, the above preacher called at my house when I was out, and left with my wife twenty pounds, which he had gathered, and whilst I was out I got from the Gentleman, who gave me so much before at different times, five guneas. He had subscribed four guneas more in the paper; but chose to give me these five privitely. For which I was doubly thankfull. I have stated this trial thus in so many words, that you may see what GOD hath wrought, and join with me in giving him glory. But amidst all these things, there were many others of various kinds to try my mind, which need not be mentioned. Now, that I have told you some of my exercises, we can sympathize with each other; nor do I think that mine were greater than yours, they were in different ways, and great enough; but hitherto the Lord hath helped. Yea, and he will still deliver, glory be to his name! O let us trust him for the future, & strive to be passive in his hand, and leave it to him to choose for us. —

It was somewhat remarkable that on Sunday night, when we had a love feast at the new Chapel, I spoke part of my experience, and was led to speak chiefly of faith and trusting in GOD with our all, and not to choose for ourselves, or strive to take ourselves out of his hands, and that this was the shortest, the safest, and the only way to be happy; and concluded with exhorting the people to this. I did not at that time know that there had been a collection made or making for me; but a fortnight before the Preacher said Mr W— would recommend it to a few friends to do something. and it was the next day that he left the 20 £ at my house. I scarcely ever speak at the lovefeasts

or public meetings; nor had I ever done it before while Mr. R— was present; but I was drawn into it thus much against my intention. There was a paper giving notice about a temporal affair, which was to be read before the lovefeast began, and they desired one to go into the reading desk to read it. I then sat there; and Mr. R— went into the pulpit over my head. After he had began and said some things, by way of intro:duction, he then said — "I think God has not despised the day of small things since I first met with Mrs. Creighton near Enniskelin". I had before seen that it would be expected that I should say something, and found a struggle about it; but now I could not avoid it, as I saw he wanted me to speak. I also prayed at the conclusion of the meeting. From his freedom with me since, I saw he was rather pleased with me than not. — I find many instances of kindness from the people. Tho' I have gained all this, thro' the mercy of God, by wading thro' many deep waters, and heavy afflictions of various kinds for five years; yet it will give you and my friends some consolation, that I be:lieve all the people rich and poor are on my side, nor do I think any of the Preachers are against me. But it does not arise from any thing that I can say to them; but they begin to pity me. Such things hath God wrought! Oh! who would not trust him? But then why am I so cold, and have so little love?

I feel greatly for you in your late conflicts, and see you must have suffered much; but I trust it will work someway for your good; only endeavour to be resigned to the will of God, or till he makes his will more clearly known. I know it is an hard matter to get ourselves into this frame, or to keep ourselves in it; but as God has helped you hitherto, and as you feel your soul happy, I trust he will still give you power over yourself, and bring you off conqueror. Be still jealous of yourself, nor trust yourself for a moment. We should be cautious of limiting the expe:rience of others exactly to our own, as God deals in various ways with his creatures, according to their capacities. Many are found, who appear to have the grace tho' they will not venture to say their sins are forgiven. This however, ought to be preached as the priveloge of all; only so as not to say that those are damned who have it not. I suppose something of this was what the old Puritans and Presbyterians meant by their distinctions of faith, namely, the faith of assurance, the faith of adherence, the faith of reliance. It is all one faith, only in different degrees. I suppose in general, when any thing particular is in agitation, that the mind is apt to rove, and it is hard to know oneself, or to know that they are not biassed in favour of what they wish; but yet it is very possible that persons of great grace may be so kept, as still to grow in grace in such an affair. In the mean time strive to get your mind and will given up to God by prayer. &c — and when you can bring yourself to this point, then God will assuredly turn the scale in your favour; or, if it is a snare, he will break it, and deliver you. I therefore commit you to the wise Counsellor, and have a full reliance on him, that he will cause all things to work together some way for your good. I still endeavour to meet you in Spirit just after dinner; but am sometimes prevented when from home at that time. Those times when I commune with yours, and the spirits of my other friends are the sweetest moments of my life; and if it were not for these, I know not how I should drag my life thro'. I have had a blessed shower of refreshing whilst writing this page. — I have great comfort also in corresponding with Mrs. Blair. There is a Clergyman lately awakened in the county Wexford, 20 miles from Dublin, chiefly by reading Fletcher's Appeal given to him by a woman of our people in Dublin when she was in his neighbourhood. There are no methodists near him. He wants wise advisers. He had an extraordinary Vision or dream, exhorting him to go forth boldly to preach the Lord Jesus. His name is Shiel

My Dear Sister London Dec.r 8th 1787

I rec.d and am thankful to you for your's of the 14th of Nov.r I would not have you to be too much distressed on my account; perhaps I am not so ill as you have imagined. I have been thinking of late what a mercy it is that GOD does not lay upon us all things at once, that is, to be afflicted in the body or outwardly, and also in the mind at the same time; or, at least not to such a degree as would o=verwhelm us. I have tolerable good health for some time past, tho' I meet with many things that give exquisite pain in my mind; and we cannot but feel as long as we are here, nay it seems to me that a Christian's feelings grow more and more sensible, as he gains more knowledge, or more grace. — This perhaps is one cause why he feels many little things, which would not affect others. Particularly he feels most from the Children of GOD. We have therefore as the apostle saith, need of patience to bear with each other's infirmities. — I don't like to have the name of a thing that I don't get, as I have brought a good deal of money from Ireland which helped to support my family and pay for my daughters schooling; tho' some persons here have been kind to me as I informed you. We must give up many little things for peace sake, even tho' we are convinced in our own mind, and rest in the approbation of GOD and our own conscience. I don't think much of the numbers that are added to our societies, if vital religion does not at the same time increase; but I know we have need to be jealous over ourselves even in this too lest we should be too ready to judge rashly, or to say to others — "Stand by, I am more holy than thou." — I see, or think I see many things in some that I would expect better from, which I do not approve; and yet I see so many defects in myself, that I am afraid to condemn them. I am just of your sentiment that the dishonour of joining us is not so great now as it was, therefore numbers may join; and therefore there is the more danger that real religion will decrease. However let us hope the best, and rejoice when we hear of sinners being awakened. We have wonderful accounts from Virginia. At a Quarter meeting about Aug.st last upwards of two hundred were converted. In other places ~~the~~ 50 or 60 of a day have been justified, and lesser numbers in other places. The Lord seems to be hastening his kingdom in many parts of the Earth. Oh! that we may be found faithful unto death and be found cloathed in white rayment at the great day. — I believe as you do that some ~~——~~ & others take advantage of the poor people's speeches who cannot express themselves clearly; and indeed it is very difficult for the most learned to speak of Spiritual or heavenly things in human language, so as to convey proper Ideas to the hearer. No doubt also but the Devil sows tares among the wheat in every revival. Dr. S. in his letter expressed his thoughts of coming to England. I don't encourage people to change their situation except they have a providential call, or are thurst out, and have no other refuge. Perhaps the distresses of our family may be cause of thankfulness to all Eternity. I have been thinking lately that the crosses in marriage are highly necessary to wean us from the creature that we may cleave to the Creator. I think some of my friends, tho' they were long studying about it have vastly greater crosses in this respect than me &c. There is much weakness, which we must bear with in each other; I have often thought for 2 or 3 years that she was the only one in the world that GOD saw fittest for me, and that I shall see this more clearly hereafter. For if there had been two or three excellencies which I wished for in a companion, perhaps they might have been overballanced by twenty bad ones. A taste for Books, at least such as I delighted in, was one thing which all my life I wished for; but perhaps it will prove best in the end that it is otherwise, and as I ^have said before, I might have been too fond of the Creature.

I find it does us no good to puzzle ourselves by looking forward, but just rest as contented as we can and hope the best for others and ourselves. As to ---- I can say but little, only you must pray on; and I am persuaded he will be converted after your death, if not before it. To hear of the conversion of Papists is indeed pleasing news; yet, few of them make steady Christians, and if they lose grace, or take offence at some things among the Methodists (for offences will come) they are very apt to return to their Mother Church, and if they do they become ten times more the children of hell than they were before. Yet doubtless there are some exceptions. Whilst the people at C— come out to hear we may hope some good will be done, tho' it does not yet appear. Perhaps some in the time of distress, or a dying hour, may remember some things they have heard, and may lay hold of the promises. So the bread that has been thrown on the waters may be found after many days, tho' it is discouraging to the Preachers and to others in the mean time. Let the Professors walk steadily and circumspectly, and that will be the best preaching. Sourness or reserve in some Meth: does harm, for the world puts wrong constructions upon every thing, and endeavour to represent true religion as a gloomy thing. yet it is a very difficult matter to act in this respect, to be civil and courteous to the people of the world, and yet to keep our conscience pure. It is the more difficult for poor country-bred people to do this, who have not the advantages of civil and breeding. Yet little as their advantages have been, these may have the unction of the holy one to guide them in a thousand little circumstances, where their Teachers cannot lay down rules. I bless the Lord, I think he is with me still; if I do not deceive myself; and I trust he will uphold me by the hand of his power, notwithstanding all my defects. Hither to the Lord has supported me, and I trust he will by some means bring me thro'. As we hold our Covenant here on the first Sunday in January, to begin about 4 in the afternoon; perhaps it might not be amiss if you and our friends at Kilmore might meet on that evening and unite in spirit with the many thousands here and elsewhere who shall be engaged at that time in devoting themselves and their all to the Lord, and thinking on that innumerable Company who shall surround the Throne above, when all the Ship's Company meet &c —— Our love to all friends - your - J: C

Decr 31st 1787 ~~Jan 4 1788~~

My dear Sister

I recd your Letter three days before Christmas, and it found us all tolerably well, but I had suffered much shortly after I wrote to you last. Indeed my life is chequered; and when you hear of my being pretty well, you may generally expect that the next account will be the reverse. I have had more of the bitter than sweet in my cup, and I'm sure it is all necessary, and I trust it will some way work together for good. As to afflictions in my body I think nothing of them, but I have had many other things to struggle with very grievous indeed, and I suppose I shall have more or less of these as long as I am spared in this vale of tears. O that they may answer a good end in me, and be a means of refining me, and purging out all my dross! This is hard work, and we put God to much trouble, (so to speak) in affecting it. I can scarcely give a clear account of the state I am in. I feel I think some tendency, or aiming at what is right; but alas! I grovel far below. I am not contented where I am, I want to get forward in the race, and yet I think I make little or no progress. I find a degree of resignation in every trial, and a persuasion that it will some how work for my good. And tho others may think that I have little of these inward conflicts, except such as arise from temporals, because all is calm outwardly; yet I sensibly feel many things that are irksome to me. The Christian's

yet still there is need of the attoning blood for the least deviation, to which we must immediately fly, for; the longer we stay away the worse. Jesus stands every moment to plead for us. —— I had a letter from W. T. He mentioned two men in Fermanagh who said they were got "beyond sanctification". If they are, it is more than Archangels are, or the spirits of just men made perfect. W. seems not settled in his mind, and wants to change his habitaton; but I doubt whether he would do better in another place; removing is always attended with loss, except there be a certain prospect before one. We shall all meet with tribulation afflictions, crosses and disappointments here, and perhaps we shall see hereafter that nothing else would do to bring us to an entire and momentary dependance on GOD for every thing. The perverseness of our will is such, that GOD is forced to use very severe methods with us sometimes to make us bend to his easy yoke! My mind is more composed at this time than when I began this Letter; tho' most of my trials still continue, we are apt to think our present trial heavier or greater than those that are some years past; but it is only because we feel the present. A few nights ago I began to look back, to see if I had formerly met with any thing more grievious than what I felt now; and upon recollection I thought I had. In the years 78 and 79 when the times were bad and money exceeding scarce in Ireland, there was much money due to me partly by my Rector, and partly by others to whom I had lent it, and tho' in the greatest distress I could not get a farthing. I had great work with the Bishop and Rector in procuring my salary, and amidst all this many of my parishioners were daily teasing me for money, thinking I had it, and would not believe me let me say what I would. My feelings upon that ocation as well as many others cannot be described. There is money due to me now by the Steward; but he cannot pay it yet, and I have applied to borrow some from two or three but I could not get it, &c &c — Many here are put to their wits end to get some sort of a living, whilst others live too well. — Surly this is a strange disordered world; let us look for a better, where all things will be ~~put~~ set to rights. Mr H—r. set out from hence for the West Indies about the beginning of this month. How it will go with him, GOD only can tell. He seems to retain his humility whilst here, but we cannot tell what we shall be on the morrow He was well rigged out with two suits of fine cloaths, and a Gown, and a good deal of Books; but humanly speaking he seemed very ill qualified for the work he was going on; yet we know GOD can work, and does work frequently by weak Instruments. —— I have sent a packet from the Conference, in which was contained a small pamphlet concerning the work of grace in a justified State, written by G. C. perhaps it may be of use to you. We need a spur every moment, as we are prone to loiter by the way, or to go backward. Oh! that we may fly on the wings of faith and love, and press towards the mark of our high calling! — our affectionate love to all our dear friends. Farewell! J. C.

D. S. The following lines I have picked out of a very old book I had often heard of (Mr Herbert's sacred poems) The verse is odd and seems very uncouth to us at this day, but the sense, and depth is wonderful. ——

" Drink not the third glass, which thou canst not tame,
When once it is within you; but before May'st rule it, as thou list:
And pour the shame, which it would pour on thee, upon the floor.

He that is drunken, may his mother kill Big with his sister: he hath lost the reigns,
Is outlaw'd by himself: all kinds of ill did with ~~the~~ his liquor slide into his veins.
The drunkard forfeits Man, and doth devest
All worldly right save what he hath by beast.

The cheapest sins most dearly punish't are; Because to shun them also is so cheap:

O England full of sin, but most of sloth! Spit out thy flegme, and fill thy breast with glory.
Thy Gentry bleats, as if thy native cloath Transpos'd a sheepishness into thy story:
Not that they all are so but that the most Are gone to grass and in the pasture lost.

This loss springs chiefly from our education
Some till their ground, but let weeds choke their son;

Some great estates provide but do not breed A mastering mind so both are lost thereby:
Or else they breed them tender, makes them need All that they leave this is flat poverty.
For he that needs five thousand pound to live, Is full as poor as he that needs but five.
By all means use sometimes to be alone, Salute thyself: see what thy soul doth wear.

Be thrifty, but not covetous; therefore give Thy need, thine honour and thy friend his due.
Be sweet to all, Is thy complexion sour? then keep such company; make them thy allay:
Get a sharp wife, a servant that will lowr. A stumbler stumbles least in rugged way.
Command thyself in chief. He life's war knows, Whom all his passions follow as he goes.

Thy friend put in thy bosom: wear his eyes
Still in thy heart. that he may see what's there.

Be calm in arguing: for fierceness makes
Error a fault, and truth discourtesy.

Calmness is great advantage: he that lets Another chafe, may warm him at his fire,
Mark all his wandrings, and enjoy his frets; As cunning fencers suffer heat to tire.

Be useful where thou livest, that they may Both want and wish thy pleasing presence still.
Let thy mind still be bent, still plotting where,
And when, and how the business may be done. Active & stirring spirits live alone.

Slight not the smallest loss, whate'er it be;
Scorn no man's love, though of a mean degree:

Judge not the preacher; for he is thy judge
If thou mislike him, thou conceiv'st him not.
God calleth preaching folly. Do not grudge to pick out treasures from an earthen pot.

The worst speak something good: if all want sense,
God takes a text, and preacheth patience.

He that gets patience, and the blessing which
Preachers conclude with. hath not lost his pains.

Sum up at night what thou hast done by day;
And in the morning, what thou hast to do.
Dress and undress thy soul: since we shall be
Most surly judged, make thy accounts agree.

main to be hanged, He was converted in the prison, and having dictated or written the Letter to his father he gave it to the man who was the Instrument of his conversion. After informing his father that he was going to be hanged, and after saying many other things; he said; "but I am now happy &c - and nothing else would do." He meant that the punishment he was going to suffer was the only means of his salvation, as if GOD had strove by various other ways to reclaim or convert him. Perhaps many may use language to the same purport, and say that if GOD had not acted so and so, or permitted them to be scourged often by themselves, they would not have been saved. — You are to have H. M—e instead of R. A. this year. We have need to look always, above men and means to GOD: and perhaps we should sometimes make more allowance than we do for men, knowing that they are compassed about with many infirmities, and have like passions as we have. I trust the Lord has taught, and will teach you more and more of this lesson every day, surely we know but little; and have reason to take shame to ourselves that we know so little notwithstanding all our opportunities, and advantages. — I hope we shall continue to pray for each other, whilst our bodies are thus parted, till we meet where bodies can part no more. Surely the time is very short. let us therefore rejoice and remember that our afflictions are light, and they are but for a moment. — Give our love to all friends, hoping to meet them all at last on Zion's Hill, and triumph together for ever. Farewell, farewell, in the Lord to whose gracious mercy and protection I commit you. and am as always yours. J. C.

My Dear Sister Octr 24th 1787

Yours of the 8th inst: I recd, which came at a time when I wanted some consolation. My bodily health is pretty good, and has been for six months except about the time of conference, when I had a bad cold. But I have had such painful sensations on various accounts for some time past, as it is not easy to describe. I still believe that GOD cares for me, and that if he permits many things to happen to us to try us, they will all in the end work together for our good; yet tho' we are persuaded of these things in the general, we find it hard work to stand, when it comes to the point, and wait for the salvation of GOD. The looking back to consider what he hath already done, is of great use to strengthen our faith. I see we are called to fight every step of the road, and oh! what opposition is there from principalities and powers, from the world, and from those who are in part renewed, as also from our own hearts. There have been several groundless reports among some of the people, which have injured me, which I am now obliged to contradict to do myself justice. St. Paul was obliged once to do so, and even to boast contrary to his inclinations when some false Apostles among the Corinthians had put a bad construction upon some of his best actions, particularly when he strove not to be burdensome to the Church or Society there, then these men said — "Oh! he does not love you, or he would have taken something from you." — and more to that purpose, you may read his answers to them upon that account. I was pretty much in the same situation when I lived at the F—y - - - - - - - - - - you will confess that is hard, and guess partly of my feelings. I bless the Lord he has not suffered me yet to sink in these deep waters; he gives me some proofs now and then that he is with me; about a month ago I had much of his presence, which is always a kind of warning to me that great storms are near at hand. The gales of temptation have blown very hard for ten days past or more, I strove to cast my anchor, but the waves are very boisterous, and the sea tempestuous. How it will be with me by the time this reaches your hand I know not. We are called to live by faith. I feel it is good so to do. It helps to bear the spirits, and hope looks over Jordan and sees the land of rest. —

"Thrice blessed bliss, inspiring hope, It lifts the fainting spirits up; &c."
Tho' our friends can do no more than sympathize with, or pray for us, when we unbosom ourselves to them; yet there is something sweet in sympathy, and surely it is a pleasing and profitable employment to be engaged in prayer for our friends and we should know their particular situation that we may direct our prayers accordingly; but how comfortable is it to think that the great High Priest ever liveth to make intercession for us all! — I firmly believe we shall praise GOD to all eternity for every cross and disappointment we meet with here and that they are all necessary, except such as we brought on ourselves. Yet nature will shrink when under the cross, and would fain get an easier way. It is necessary that we be tried daily, lest we rest contented, or forget our weakness, and that we must come every moment for fresh strength. And tho' we know this in theory, and perhaps hear the lesson constantly repeated; yet how long are we in learning it, and dull in the practical part! Sometimes in bodily afflictions the soul is supported with strong consolations; at other times when the body is in health, the mind may be exercised with the severest inward conflicts. But if both these be at the same time, the state of such a person must be pitible indeed. — A good many years ago there were three single women here not sisters, who lived and wrought together, and lived from week to week, giving away all their earning except what barely supported them, and made no provision for the ensuing week. How many years they continued so to do, I know not; I believe none followed their example, nor do I think we are called so to do, from that text <u>take no thought for tomorrow</u>; the plain meaning of which is — be not anxious, or filled with carking care about tomorrow. we are to use every proper means in temporals and spirituals, and then look for a blessing. The husbandman cannot expect a crop except he sow the seed. — Tho' in one sense it is of little matter to us what others think of us; yet in another sense, it is our duty (for the sake of religion) to justify our character, and not suffer our good to be evil spoken of. Some indeed have got a knack of praising themselves too far. Perhaps it is not easy to keep in the right path in this respect. B. A. has a florid easy way of preaching, and this takes with those that are but shallow in experience, or has not discernment; I don't know any thing bad in him, only I believe he is rather light; but that might seem more so to our family than others. — I think it is right that the Meth^s should pay all the respect they can to any moral Clergyman like Mr Mears as perhaps they act according to the light they have, and may come into greater light. They should strive to let it be seen that they do respect moral Ministers. His wife was once fully awakened, if not converted, at Bath. when she was coming away she asked Mr Fletcher's advice what she should do, who advised her to hear faithful & gospel Ministers where ever she could find them. This and much more she told our Aunt R. B. in private, and used to read some letters from some English young women; but thro' fear and shame &c she lost what she had. But she had always an excellent natural temper, and a moral character; her mother died when she was young, and I think I heard, she appeared to her in a vision or a dream, and gave her some charges, among the rest something about the Bible; but I forget the particulars. I doubt not but she will be saved; but her crown will not be so bright as it would have been, had she continued to walk on according to the light and grace given. — Religion does not consist in rapturous joy; but the general tenour of the soul is to cleave to GOD as its centre, and to live in his will, and in trust and reliance on him. I heard a person here explain it thus. The soul is like the needle in the compass, which always points to the Pole; but when the box in which it is, is shook or stirred the needle vibrates, and deviates a little to either side for some time; but still it has a tendency to point to the pole, and shortly is settled and recovers its former place.

more so with [illegible]

[illegible] not desire you to continue to pray for us, above all that we may not be
[illegible]ess cumberers of the ground in our Day. May we all do the work he has sent
[illegible] do while the Day lasts, and may we finish our Course with joy! Amen.
[illegible]pose you will have moved by the time you receive this. I trust the Lord
[illegible]oah will be your strength, your shield and your Tower. 'Tis he and not the
[illegible]ace that makes our Heaven. May he be your everlasting Portion is the
[illegible]ayer of your affectionate loving Brother J. C.

London July 7th 1784

Thro' mercy we are all well at present. We retain I trust some
[illegible]e Life of God in our souls; but his full Image is what we know is ne-
[illegible]essary, and are sometimes wrestling for but not with that constancy, and
[illegible]nizing spirit that is necessary. — I suppose by this time you have gotten
[illegible]o Cavan, I trust He who has sheltered you under his wings hitherto will pro-
[illegible]t there also. You have only to leave yourselves entirely in his hands, and
[illegible]st him with your all. The hairs of your head are all numbered. Nothing
[illegible]n happen without his permission; and he knows what is best for us. He sees
[illegible]n that a little Physick is good for our health. Then let him do as seemeth
[illegible]d to him. ~~but~~ only may he make us holy that we may be eternally happy
J. C.

I wrote the following lines for T. I made them a few days ago when returning
[illegible]ome in the coach, having slept the night before out of Town the thought crossed
[illegible]y mind that morning early when in secret prayer.

Tim my dear, give God your heart
Inocence and grace pursue
Mark what danger, Oh! what smart
Our own folly leads us to! —
'Tis in youth you must begin
Happiness in God to find.
Youth's a season prone to sin.

Damning sin that taints the mind,
All your Mother bids obey;
Never grieve your nearest friend:
Daily watch, and hourly pray;
Your Life in glory then shall end!

London Augt. 24. 1784

My Dear sister

~~[illegible]~~ On the receipt of yours of 10th of last month I
was filled with grief at the thoughts of your forlorn situation; yet I
trust that God whom you serve, will still be with you, and whilst he is
near all things will be well. Those words of ~~the~~ Apostle are often encou-
raging and help to bear us up. "We are troubled on every side, yet not
distressed; we are perplexed but not in despair, persecuted, but not forsa-
ken; cast down, but not destroyed." The ways of Providence are a great
deep. Who can fathom it? There is a consideration which, if we always
carry it with us, will greatly help to support us; that is, that nothing can
possibly happen to us without God's permission. Therefore when all things
are cleared up, and the secret wheels of Providence are discovered to us
then we shall see how wisely all things were contrived, and that everything that
happened to us in our pilgrimage was absolutely necessary in order to keep us
in spiritual health here, and bring us to everlasting felicity hereafter. He knows
best what physick or Discipline is necessary for us in our childhood and tho'
it be not pleasant for the present, yet we ought to submit to his better judge-
ment believing that he is a tender Parent who has our welfare at heart.
[illegible]

If they live, they will undoubtedly have to struggle thro' difficulties in tempor[al]
as well as other respects; and I believe it will be so much the better for them.
If they are saved finally, all will be well. Every day shews me more and more
that of the two extremes prosperity is the more dangerous, tho' adversity is cer-
tainly very trying. M--- is rather sensible above her years, and solid, tho' not
from impressions of religion. Mr. W--y two years ago seeing her at school, and ob-
serving her countenance, prophesied (as I heard) something favourable of her.
Yet if she was taken away now, I should feel perfectly resigned. If I ~~err~~ err
on any side, I believe I lean too much to that side, that I do not think so much
about my children as I ought. (It is amazing how prosperity or health checks
good desires or grace in the soul. We should therefore not desire that our children
should have much of this world's goods, but that they may be kept in the world,
and if we all gain the happy port then all will be well. We can never suffici-
ently acknowledge with gratitude the mercies that God hath shewn to our fa-
mily, among all our crosses and afflictions; and I trust we shall one way or
other, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship, be all at length
safe landed where no storms can reach us.— The disappointments which
many or all of us have met with perhaps were necessary for us, and we shall see
hereafter how they wrought together for our good. We are weaned from the creature,
and led to seek comfort in the Creator where only true and lasting happiness
is to be found. The blind woman's hymn is wonderful indeed, when we consider
her illiterate state, and the small opportunity of improvement which she
had; but they are well taught whom God teacheth, and undoubtedly to them
who improve their one Talent, he will add more and more. It is very likely
that many who have received but one Talent will hereafter outshine some
who have rec.d five or ten, but did not make a suitable improvement; for the
degrees of Glory will not be in proportion to the Talents rec.d here, but in pro-
portion to their improvement of them. I was endeavouring to enforce this Doctrine
on my hearers yesterday evening, in order to give those an humbling view of
themselves who have rec.d many Talents of knowledge, and opportunity, as
well as of grace, seeing many who have rec.d very little of these here may far
outshine them hereafter, even admitting that they do get to heaven. These two
questions should always be on our minds, and serve to humble us. "Who made
thee to differ? or what hast thou, which thou hast not received?"— There is too
much of self-sufficiency, or independance, or a forgetfulness of God, in this
respect which cleaves, perhaps, either more or less, to every saint upon
Earth; happy they who have least of it, and who give God the whole glory of all
the good that they possess!——— I fear my wife, by looking at the conduct of many
professors, and those not the least ones is resting where she is, and not looking at a
higher pattern, even Christ, whose steps we are to follow. When I look at the fruits
of her outward conduct I must confess they are better than those of many who can
speak well, and are reputed pious; and I think some who profess Sanctification
would not bear many things that she does as well as her. Yet I am not at all satis-
fied either with her spiritual experience or my own; whatever it be, I find still
a desire to go forward, and I cannot be contented 'till the mighty void is filled up
with the Deity. I found rather a deadness or stupid frame of mind during
those four months that I was better in my body; such an amazing creature is
man! I see how necessary it is that God should from time to time, lay more
stripes upon us in order to make us attentive to the one thing needful. Oh!
his chastisements are surely proofs of his love, and of his willingness to make
us happy. We shall see hereafter how all he did was for our good, and what trouble
we gave him to bring us to himself. A man two days ago was relating a striking
word which a man formerly used in a Letter to his Father when he was going

place

more so with [illegible] order, my wife has been dangerously ill, but is now better. Surely GOD is very good in correcting us for our profit, and by various ways stirring us up, that we may cleave to him, and lay aside every weight that hinders, all sloth and lukewarmness, and to run with vigour the race that is set before us. It is asto=nishing, and yet a melancholly truth, that in the day of health and prosperity, we are prone to forget GOD, as the Israelites, when they were settled in the goodly Land. "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the GOD I love!!"

To GOD's grace and mercy I commit you untill we meet which I trust will be in a happy place! Farewell! — Yours — J. C.

If you have not seen the Lines written below before, perhaps you may find something striking in them. They will require to be studied with attention.

The Paradox

How strange is the course that the Christian must steer;
How perplex'd is the path he must tread?
The hope of his happiness rises from fear,
And his life he receives from the Dead?

His fairest pretentions must wholly be wav'd,
And his best resolutions be cross'd;
Nor can he expect to be perfectly sav'd,
'Till he finds himself utterly lost.

When all this is done, and his conscience secur'd
Of the total remission of sins;
When his pardon is sign'd and his peace is procur'd;
From that moment the conflict begins. June 30th 1787

Aug 24: 1787

My Dear Sister

Your Letter came to me when I was exercised indeed with heavy trials; but thanks be to GOD, they are not too heavy for me to bear, because he sup=ported me. My two eldest Daughters has had a fever and was dangerously ill, my 3 one at the same time ill with another disorder in her throat, my maid has been so ill of late, as to be almost dispaired of in a consumption, she can do nothing nay we have to attend her. In the midst of all this, tho' I felt every thing, yet I did not feel unea=siness of mind; but I was yesterday jealous over myself lest this was not so much the effect of grace, as a kind of stupid or hardened, insensible frame of mind. This I spoke of in the evening when with a little company to whom I administer the sacrament every monday evening; and one observed that it was a temtation, and a common one to think thus of our selves. If my children had been taken away, I believe I should have been perfectly resigned, nay, thankful believing that they were taken away from the evil to come. "This was the case when one was taken away in Jan." last, and I saw the kindness of GOD in that dispensation; and these words past thro' my mind more than once at that time — "She would have been to consume thine eyes!" —— Tho' she had many excellencies; yet she had some things which if they had grown up with her, as probably they would, would have been of bad consequence. She was very fond of dress, and fond of money, the two eldest are careless about it, if they got any bestowed them would give it to their Mother but she would bring [illegible]

If they live, they will undoubtedly have to struggle thro' difficulties in temporal... them.
as we travel on; but then as our day is so shall our strength be; an omni... strength will be given in the very moment of trial; if we act faith; and we... and barely escape; so that in every conflict we are just saved and no more, so it will be till we gain the last Victory. We are too ready to look forward to the [illegible]-ties that we may expect, and to say there is a Lion in the way, and I fear I... one day fall by the hand of Saul; whereas we should look back and see what [illegible] done for, and what he hath brought us thro'; and we may remember that we [illegible] not have got thro' the least of those Difficulties except he had supported us. Indeed, all our family may expect to find the way very rough thro' this wilder[ness]; but then if we are brought by any means safe to Canaan, we shall find it a sweet Rest, a glorious Rest. then we shall sing in those words of Charles Wesley—

"What joy shall abound, when our Brethren around The Throne of our glorious [illegible]
When our comrades in pain we embrace them again, And in Jesus's bosom eternally [illegible]
With loving surprize The whole company cries How strangely at last are we met in [illegible]
What a wonder of grace Transcending our praise, That we should be seen in this holiest [illegible]
Poor sinners below, Acquainted with woe How heavily once with our load did we go [illegible]
In trials severe How oft did we fear We should never hold out, we should never come [illegible]
Fellow Prisoners beneath, our sorrowful Breath We wasted in passionate wishes [illegible]
Our Evils so rife, So painful the strife, And so long did it seem the sad moment of [illegible]
That moment is past! We are landed at last, We are safely arrived, where our Anchor was [illegible]
On Imannuels Land with a numberless Band Of Cherubs and Seraphs exulting we [illegible]
For a moment of pain we on Earth did sustain, An eternal Reward we in heaven [illegible]
Who governs the skies, hath banished our sighs, And the Lamb he hath wiped all the te[ars] from our [eyes]

Indeed there will be wonders upon wonders relating there and then shouts of p[raise] and Hallelujahs to the Lamb; and every individual will think he has the greatest won-der to relate, and that he is brought safe there is the greatest Miracle of all.— Well then let us be encouraged, seeing there is nothing too difficult for an Omnipotent Arm to effect, and since by faith we shall come off more than Conquerors. Glory to God that he hath brought us into his marvelous Light, and that so far he hath helped us! Let us cast our every care upon him and trust him for who[le] is to come— Amen, Amen. I think upon reflecting often upon Bro— [illegible] situation, that he must endeavour to go on and do all the good he can, till he h[as] clearer light that he ought to stop. I see more and more that we are wrong in lo[ok]-ing too much to our own abilities, as if God needed them. Surely all the work [that] is done upon Earth, he doth it himself. And he will have the whole honour [to] himself, and will work by whom, and as he pleaseth.— As to B. W— g[oing] about exhorting; I never was forward to forbid such, and yet often it does mor[e] harm than good, especially if the Person does not walk wisely with respect to th[ose] that are without, or if they should afterwards fall from Grace. Example is [the] most convincing Preaching, and upon the whole, I believe it would be most prud[ent] for him to walk humbly and when he has an oppertunity of conversing in pri-vate to the edification of others to do it, praying at the same time for much Wisdo[m]; for Oh! the Devil is a crafty Enemy, and is constantly sowing Tares among th[e] wheat. He does most Execution when he appears as an Angel of Light. We should take heed that the light which is in us be not darkness. There are many here in distress, and even among those that make a tolerable appearance, many are hard put to for bread. Every thing is exceeding dear. I find my mind pretty easy at present with respect to these things, tho' I have much room to exercise faith; for yesterday when I called on the Steward for a Quarters Salary which was due, he told me oth[ers] had also applied to him, and that he could pay none of us. I have but [illegible] shillings

more so with professors, often owing to their ignorence or mistaking one another. However ye have an unction from the holy one, that will teach you all things necessary to be known; and especially in ten thousand little circumstances where your public Teachers can not inform you. O what a blessing is this to have such a Monitor and Instructor ready at hand at all times and in all places! Yet there are circumstances in which the wisest and most conscientious may be at a loss to know how to act. let them in such cases, trust in the Lord and stay upon their God. Isai: 50. 10. We had an excellent sermon here this week upon that difficult text, by Mr B—n, our Assistant. He took the two verses, 10 & 11 and shewed that they belonged to two classes of men, the first, who not only fear God but obey. Such as those described in 3d of Mal: who obey his servant, Christ, who is eminently so called in some parts of scripture, or the servants of the Lord, who speak in his name. These are therefore the righteous, or the children of God; but how can these walk in darkness and have no light? since Christ saith, "he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness." and St John, "If we say we have fellowship with God, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth." — and many other texts to that purpose. He observed that darkness is taken in different senses in Scripture. Sometimes for ignorence, that gross darkness of understanding that covereth the people, in which the natural man is involved; but the persons in the Text are not in this darkness, for they are brought to the knowledge of God and his truth, and of themselves. Darkness is frequently put for sin, as in those passages before cited from St John; but the persons in the Text ~~are not in darkness~~ both fear and obey God ~~brought to the knowledge of~~ therefore it must be some other kind of darkness. It sometimes means, he said a time of affliction, or sore trial, and anguish of soul, sometimes distress in temporal circumstances, sometimes a suspension for a while, or an abatement of spiritual comforts, and the sense of the divine presence; in which kind of darkness our Lord, who had no sin, seems to have been in the garden, and also on the cross, when he uttered such words as these; — "if it be possable let this cup pass; — this is your hour, and the power of darkness; my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" — The children of God may be in such circumstances as these; and if they are children they certainly will; they must suffer here, every grain of their faith, and grace will be tried; they will be chastized, if they are not bastards. To them therefore, who are in this kind of darkness, tho' not the darkness of sin, the exhortation in the text is very suitable; — "trust in the Lord, and stay upon your God." — As to the other class described in the 11 verse, they are such as may have a fair outside; be moral kind of men, and have a good reputation, may have health, and temporal prosperity, or be in easy circumstances. Hence they may conclude that they are the favourites of God; they may kindle sparks of their own, and take to themselves a false comfort. To those it is said ironically in the same manner as Solomon speaks Eccles: 11. 9. and Elijah to the false Prophets, 1 Kings 18. 27. — "You may kindle your sparks, but ye shall lie down in sorrow". ye shall lie down in sickness; ye shall die; ye shall lie down in hell.

The following remarks I met in an old Book which I lately read, and tho' they are common, yet I shall quote them in the Author's words. — "Pyrates do not meddle with a poor, and empty fisherboat, but when ships come richly laden, full of precious wares, then they bestir themselves, and take pains to master it: so the Devil, when he sees a soul richly laden with fruits, sees a man hath got a vast stock of prayers &c, upon him he sets and nothing pleases him, like robbing such a person of his treasure. The empty Traveller fears no robbers, the beggar sleeps securely in his cottage; the shepherd is not affraid of high-way men; the indigent day-labourer needs not lock up his doors at night; but the man that abounds in gold, whose coffers are ready to burst with the weight of his money, that is the man that hath reason to be affraid of Enemies. So it is with grace, and holiness. The holier men are, the more they may expect the Devil's assaults; and the richer their souls are in faith, and good works, the more they may look for the rage of the roaring lion; for nothing is a greater eye sore to him, than Eve in paradise, and a soul exercised with celestial glory; and nothing stings him more, than that a creature made a little lower than the Angels, should be in a probability of being placed in the same form with Angels"

The King issued a Proclamation on the first of June, a most excellent one against all kinds of vice and immorality, profanation of the Lord's day, and various other things, and commands all Magistrates and Officers under him to see the same put in execution, and he declares

[illegible] then will undoubtedly have to struggle thro' difficulties in tempora[illegible]
he will discountenance any of the nobility that are near him [illegible] them.
those things specified. It is a great matter to hear of vice being even discountenanced
by the higher Powers; but I fear it will have little effect, because those who should see
the Laws put in execution, most commonly break them themselves and set a bad ex-
ample to others. The Queen is a most aimiable woman, and it would be well for many
or all the great Ladies, if they would copy after her. It is remarked that no one ever spoke
any evil of her. 'Tis said she is a great economist and is very punctual in paying
her Tradesmen's bills when they are brought to her. She trains up her daughters
in industry; that is, such as is suitable to their rank, whereas most of the grand
folks are idle, and mind nothing but dress, and those vices to which it leads.—
As to that man I formerly mentioned, I am persuaded he has his intelligence from
the invisible world; but I am more and more convinced it is from an evil spirit.
tho' perhaps he himself does not think so. It is said, he formerly professed to be reli-
gious, and bore a pretty good outward character, till at last he was detected in some dis-
honesty, and that then he went immediately out of his mind, was confined, and afterwards
put into a workhouse, but I have not learned at what time he began to speak in the man-
-ner he does now. I think that Stapleton did not know by what kind of Spirit he was ac-
tuated, at least at first. I have often thought that the people of GOD have these discoveries
made to them of the power, knowledge, and subtilty of evil spirits; that they may see
the extent of their power and that they may be confirmed in the truth and in the truth
of the Bible in which these things are mentioned. It serves to establish them in the
faith. Mr Wesley still persists in publishing things relative to evil Spirits and
the invisible world, notwithstanding many, even some of the most sensible of his own
people, redicule it, and he says he will do so, against all the world; because if we yield
this point to Infidels and Deists, we must give up the Bible; for if we suffer one
part of it to be discredited, we must give up the whole of course.— I wish you may
get as good a man as Mr Green next year. We must ~~have~~ endeavour to make allow-
ance for the variety there is among the preachers of the word, as well as other Christi-
ans, and strive to profit by all, because many circumstances, besides the want of piety,
may contribute to this difference; but I fear too many in Ireland as well as here,
are too light and trifling. It is certain too many oppose the work of sanctification
in some sense, or redicule it, and therefore they that maintain it, are often borne
down by others. We need not wonder at this, when we consider the nature of man, and read
our Bible. the mystery of iniquity still worketh, not only in the hearts of the disobe-
dient, but even in some degree in the hearts of those that may be in the favour of
GOD, but not yet sanctified throout. The Devil is always sowing the seeds of Division
and I suppose the wound at Clones will not be soon healed. Let us not be surprised
at any thing we see or hear, and this perhaps may be of use to us.— Every day convin-
ces me more and more of the littleness of man, in his ~~best~~ most exalted station here
below, yea of the ignorence of the wisest man upon Earth.— I have got a letter from
Bro D since I rec'd yours. He says nothing in particular about his trials; but thinks
all he has is needful for him. I doubt not but we shall all see this more clearly if once
we arrive at the new Jerusalem, where many dark providences will be cleared up,
and we shall be demonstratively convinced that many things which seemed to be a-
gainst us, were really for, and wrought together for our good. This will be eminently the case
with respect to marriage, wherein many of the wise and learned have been disappointed.
Disappointments in the creature, lead us to center, where we should, in the Cre-
ator. If we found things here pleasing and satisfying, we should be fond of abiding here
and unwilling to part with them. O the wisdom of Providence! how unsearchable are
his ~~providence~~ judgments, and his ways past finding out!
I had before some acct from R. of Mrs B— and her blind sister, the acct of her faith affected
me very much, as I always am when I hear of persons putting their whole confidence in God.
Oh! how many will shine bright in glory, who lived in obscurity, and perhaps destitute of hu-
man means. [illegible] will far excell many who were highly favoured with Gospel opportun[illegible]

He has his left hand on a scull underneath, and near the scull is a book open, with that Text — "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory thro' our Lord Jesus Christ." — His right hand is across his breast with the finger pointing upwards. His lips are partly open as if laughing. At the time of painting Mr F—r had laid a condition on the man that no copy should be taken of it while he lived. Such was his humility! In a Book of Mr Baxter's, which I am now reading, I met the following words, which are worthy of our remark. "Remember, saith he, that you have never learned the Christian art of suffering aright, 'till you can suffer not only by bad men, but by men that are otherwise good, not only by enemies but by friends, not only by them that bear the sword, but also by some who preach the word." — It will help us to get thro' with greater ease, and to bear with the errors and mistakes of Christians, if we always remember that the wisest carry their treasure in earthen vessels; beside we frequently mistake one another, and the Enemy is ever at hand to help the quarrel or division. The more I study human nature, I mean man in his fallen nature, with all the consequences of the fall, the less I am surprized at any thing I hear or see. We are taught by all these things, to look to another country, and a better state and to keep in mind that we are only sojourners here for a time. — My two youngest Child[n] had like to have died lately. There are many things to exercise us, almost every day; but it is all well, when we are kept with resignation to the divine will. The Lord is very kind to us, and bears with our infirmities, for he knoweth whereof we are made, he remembers that we are but dust. There is no correction we meet with, but is a proof of his fatherly care. O that we may give up our selves to be disposed of as seemeth best to him! —— I have seen in the public papers Mr Wesley's route thro' Ireland; by which it appears he will be at [illegible] on the 26 inst. I hope there will be a good congregation to hear him. — We have lately rec[d] another acc[t] from Dr Coke from Char'Town, where he opened a new preaching House, which will contain about two thousand people, and he gives a pleasing acc[t] of the prospect of doing good in that part of the world; One of our Preachers joined a thousand members in his own Circuit since last Conferrence there. There seems to be great openings for the Gospel in the Western world, and it is to be hoped that the time when the fullness of the Gentiles shall come in is not at a great distance. The odd man I formerly mentioned, (I'm told) says that Christ will appear first at Armagh in Ireland, and that the millennium will commence shortly; but I have not much faith in this prediction. My wife lately met him by accident in a house where she called, and heard him say several things to others, but she would not give him her hand. It is remarkable that tho' persons have prejudice before they see him, yet afterwards their prejudice is lessened as he has rather a smiling and a simple looking countenance. Some I fear think too much about him, and many grand folks go to him or have him brought to them. Whilst my wife was present he shewed a Letter which he said he had got from the King of Poland; but I don't know what it contained. He desired those present to bid me come to him; but I don't know that I shall, except I happen to meet him. He has been sometimes where the Prince of Wales was, but the Prince would not give him his hand; and indeed he has no good to prophecy concerning him, for he is a very debauched young man, and has caused much grief to his Parents, who are at least moral, and some think have real religion. One thing the odd man said concerning the Prince, whilst my wife was present was, that the hoofs of the horse he should ride on one day should be wet or covered in human blood, and that not many years hence. It is said the King told him once, that his Bro[r] had a better chance to inherit the Crown than him. When I was at Bristol last summer I was told that the Queen was writing notes upon the new Testament. I also heard of some work which she and her daughters had performed, such as a carpet &c. Some complain she does not promote trade enough [illegible] by changing the fashions

I got a glimpse of her and her two eldest Daughters once as they were stepping into their Coach. I had not time to make remarks, but there seemed to be gravity in their air, nor was there any thing remarkable in their dress. The Prince of Wales's own body servant is a methodist. He and his wife was converted by the instrumentality of a very poor woman one of our Leaders, who went to nurse tend his wife when she was lying in. I also heard lately that there is a religious man, Parker by name, whom the King has promoted to be the master of his Stables and Horses &c, which is a great place; and the King has such an oppinion of him, that he says whatever Parker does or says must be right; and he gave him Authority to turn off any of the servants under him if they did not act as he would have them. All this shews that the King approves of what is good, and has some sense of it, and one thing I believe that when we consider the character of Kings in general, our King and Queen are the most moral of any now upon Earth, and if he had honest or enlightened Bishops or clergy near him, he would be eminent for piety. — I forgot to mention another thing the man said when my wife was present. He said he was grieved that many goats were creeping in among his Johnny's sheep, (meaning Mr Wesley) and that he was finding them out more and more. Let us all press forward to that country where all distinctions will be forgotten. It will not be asked of us, from what country came ye? but have ye on the wedding garment? Are ye holy? if ye be, then enter into my joy. — Farewel my friends, may we all meet there, to rejoice together, and part no more! Amen yours as ever J. C.

My Dear Sister

Shortly after I wrote to you last I was ill for ten days, and confined to my bed three of them, we may expect we shall have enough to exercise us as long as we are here; but it is all well, and shall be well with those who patiently endure unto the end. We do find some consolation in sympathezing with our friends, and it is fit we should know their case, and situation as often as we can, that we may direct our prayers for them accordingly. We are not called to be Stoics, unfeeling and insensible of our own, or other's trials; no, man was formed to be a Social Being, and the more intelligent, and sensible he is, the more refined are his feelings and the more delicate his sensations; but indeed such suffer very much when they are connected, or have to do with those who have a rough, unfeeling manner, tho they may not intentionally mean to offend, or grieve. These are some of the infirmities which cleave to human nature; or are the consequence resulting from our Spirits being clogged with these gross material bodies. But how various are those! yea, we see a very great difference in the brutes of the same species, in their sagacity, their understanding, and their liveliness. See how some dogs differ from other dogs, some horses from other horses and so of the rest. There is a wonderful, incomprehensible union between the body and the Spirit, or the understanding. Generally, if the body be weighty and gross, it communicates some of its heaviness to the Spirit, or the intellectual faculty, and renders it dull and inactive. Education indeed, frequent conversation, and various other helps make a great difference so that persons naturally heavy, may be vastly improved. I have often admired the conduct of those in the higher ranks in life, in one instance; namely, in taking much care of the bodies of their children that they might not be stuffed with much food, nor with such as might make them gross. If they would take religion into the account, then their conduct would be worthy of imitation, however it is laudable in that instance, and therefore you see how quick and discerning they are in those things, in which they are conversant. I have heard Mr Wesley say, he blessed God that he had not known what it was to have a full belly till after he was ten years old. —

To be at a word in buying and selling is certainly the best and easiest way for buyer and seller, and perhaps they will rely more upon his word and honesty; but if they once find him to make an abatement in one instance, they will give him a great deal of trouble at other times. But it is very trying to have to deal with the world, and sometimes it is

My Dear Sister   April 16 1807

We can feel for and sympathize with each other, when we hear of the various trials with which we are exercised here in a disordered world. It is some consolation to our mind to think that our friends do sympathize with us; but alas! what can they do for us more than barely sympathizing with us? very little. We are therefore taught daily to look from man, weak, helpless creatures, such as we ourselves, to the omnipotent GOD; to look to him who not only sympathizes with, but can and will help us. In all the afflictions of his people, he is afflicted. He carries the lambs in his bosom, and gently leadeth those that are with young. It is very common and natural to think that no other have been exercised as we have been; but the Apostle saith — "there hath no temptation taken you, but such as are common to man." See the sermon on that Text in the Magazine for Jan: last, I think it may be profitable to us all. Young Christians are apt to immagine that if they were advanced to a certain degree of grace, they should not have so severe trials; but that is a mistake; for the trials are frequently of a keener nature as we get forward, and Satan, who is an old experienced warrior, varies the nature of his attack, and changes his ground. Besides, the more a man is renewed, the more sensible and fine his feelings, and his sensibility is more exquisite; therefore he is more liable to be pained and grieved from every quarter. But then he is supported in them, and taught to look at them as things that are common to others, and as what are unavoidable in this present state of things. It maters not then what the nature of the trial be, if we are supported in it; and this is promised to us. GOD is by various ways and means, striving to teach us this lesson, to cut us off from every thing here, that we may cleave to himself, and center in him. Oh! what wisdom is in his teachings! This circumcising work ~~lesson, to cut us off from every thing here~~ is indeed painful, but it is necessary, in order to our recovery, in order to our restoration to the divine image. Every excrescence, every thing that cleaves to us, that is offensive to GOD, must be cut off; self must be crucified, that Christ may be all in all. I don't at all wonder that some have said that to sit under our preaching, makes them uneasy, and gives pain; and those I mean are they who are looked upon by many as very religious people. But who are they who can experimentally say with Paul; — "It is not I that live, but Christ that liveth in me; and the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of GOD?" — This was my Text on good Friday evening; and I bless GOD, some have said it was good for them to be then present, whilst the Spirit applied some broken hints to their hearts. And after we have dwelt on the crucifixion of our nature; how pleasing is the thought of its resurrection! Christ has arisen in our nature, and is become the first fruits of them that sleep in him. If we have experienced the first resurrection in our hearts and continue rising up into Christ our Head whilst we are here; our bodies also shall soon be partakers of his resurrection, and shall be made like unto his glorious Body. Nay, we shall be growing up into the GODhead to all Eternity. Hallilujah!

I can sensibly feel what you felt when you were warned, and yet could not get another house, as I know something of what it is to be in uncertainty. You are in a kind of Egypt with that woman. The Israelites groaning in bondage cried unto the Lord, and he at length delivered them. — When you get another place, there also you will meet your crosses. Remember we are called to be crossbearers. It is the badge of a Christian. The time also is short. This is a consolation. — I can say little about Mr D—s conduct; only this, that I scarcely wonder at any thing I see either among Christians, or the world. Man is the strangest Being in the universe, even unaccountable to himself. There is something in our family naturally, that is not very pleasing even to Christians; we may endeavour to mend it, but it is not easily done. And we must not too hastily censure others because they do not in all things think and speak just as we do. These things we must bear, whilst perhaps they have need of patience to bear with us. —

It will be prudent for you to be present as often as possible at your prayer meetings &c in e
both to encourage the Leader and the people. Weak ones are apt to take offence at little things. —
We must suspend our judgment about W. D. Perhaps there is some mystery about
D's affair; but why did he not then endeavour to clear up the matter? The Lord often
permits the ungodly to ride over the righteous for a time. There are many mysteries
here which we cannot account for. We live on the ruins of a disordered world.
All things are in confusion, and out of tune, and this is used as an argument that
there will be another state when all things will be set to rights again. If Mrs W-
died well, as I trust she did, then all is well; she is an infinite gainer now, whatever
she may have gone thro' hitherto. I do not at all wonder that she did not escape the
snare that was laid for her, notwithstanding all the warning she had. My last
word to her at parting, was, "beware of D. D." — You must exercise faith and pa-
tience with respect to. — I trust things will turn out better than your fears; but we
often see many run counter to the will of God a long while. This also we must leave
with the Lord, who seeth and knoweth all things, and "he knoweth, saith Job, the way
that I take; when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." — It would be
well if the Meth—" would bear a little with, and be as civil as they can to Mr. M-s,
and such like Clergyman, who are partly moral, and may have some good about
them. We should remember how much darkness there is upon the human mind,
and how long God bore with our ignorance and hardness of heart. Young, zealous
persons have often done more harm than good by the _manner_ of their reproof. We
must allow much for the prejudice of Education &c &c — The Devil is always sow-
ing Divisions, and no doubt he was busy at C-s I'm inclined to believe Mr G-n
acted uprightly according to the best of his judgment; but in cases of that nature
some of the parties will blame the judge, let him act ever so impartially. No
doubt, in every revival, the subtle Enemy is always sowing his tares; nor
need we wonder if we often see irregularities in such cases. — Tho' it was a
disagreeable and fruitless journey which your young Preacher took to the Mountains,
yet he may profit by it in various respects. It will help to give him some Idea
of the gross darkness that covers the people. He will see also that it is not by the
wisdom or might of man, that they are turned; and he will patiently wait the Lord's
leisure, or let him work in his own way. However, let him not be discouraged,
let him do _his_ work faithfully, and he may yet see the fruit of his labours, even
where he at first had little expectations. God takes various methods to convince us,
that the work that is done upon earth, he doth it himself, tho' he uses us as instruments.
But we are too apt to think that it cannot be done without us. Oh! how little do
the wisest know of the ways of God, yea, or all the wise men upon Earth put together!
He giveth not an account of any of his matters. There is a woman here, I'm told, who
prophesies, or speaks a great deal about the Millennium; and is often with the odd
man, but I have not seen her yet, I pay little regard to such, especially as I hear
she thinks herself above the Bible. — We have a woman in our Society;
but she is sensible and adorns the Gospel, who preached occationally in some
houses and is a Leader. I have not heard her preach, but I am told, her language
is very elegant, and her prayers powerful. She is a single woman, she had preached,
many years ago, but she had laid it aside for years, not being much countenanced
by the Preachers; but she says she lost ground in her own soul, and about a year
ago began again. She seems to be humble, nor does she talk much in conversation.
There is some revival here among the poor, and in obscure corners about the Town.
God has his precious ones scattered up and down over the whole Earth. —
I have lately purchased a Print of Mr. Fletcher, which is taken from a painting
done about 10 or 11 years ago before he went to his own Country, when he was very low in a Con-
sumption. The Print is about 4 inches by 10, is very striking, but the painting which I saw, is
beautiful beyond description. His countenance divine, and his eyes on heaven.

afterwards to get a room and take in poor Children and Orphans, afterwards to build an Hospital for them and to maintain and teach a great number of Students &c &c —
He had no plan before hand, nor no fund, He began with 10 shillings which some one gave him for the use of the poor. He was still in great straits and yet he was 'some-[times] forced to go forward, and encrease the expence, and to enlarge his buildings and purchase ground. God sent him the money by various hands, and various ways, and it never came till the hour of extremity, and frequently no more came at a time than was just called for, or was necessary that day. His faith was constantly exercised, and sometimes very severely tried. When the Steward would come for money to buy provisions or other things, and there was none, he would desire him to call again, and perhaps he would have it, which generally happened when he returned the next time. Sometimes when the Conductor of the Buildings would come and tell him the workmen must be paid that day or they would desist from the work, he desired him to call again, and then went to his Closet to remind God of that present call, and that he knew it was his own work, and on his coming out of his closet, he found on one side of the door a man with a bag of money or a letter with some from an unknown hand, and on the other side the man ready to receive it to pay the workmen, or for other necessaries. The King at last took notice of it, sent him money, granted him a Charter, and many Privileges. Whilst I read this Book, I felt a cry in my heart "Oh! that it was translated into all languages, and dispersed thro' every corner of the globe, that it might encourage men to trust God, and declare the wonders he doth for the children of Men." — I have experienced so much of this myself since I came here, that it was no wonder this Book was a feast to me. The Author of it is he that wrote that Tract called Nicodemus which I suppose you may have seen among the Meth.ds And it is remarkable that thousands of lies were spread concerning him with respect to that Building. — I cannot but here tell you that about the time of my child's death and a little after it, God sent me by different hands near 20 guineas, some of whom I don't know and last Sunday the Danish Merct. put a ten Pound Bill into my hand. And all this money was wanting; for money melts here I may say, almost as the snow in the heat of the sun. — There is a sermon in the Magazine for Jany. and Feb: in which those sentiments are expressed which you say Mr. Green used; I think the sermon very profitable. I know not what to say to you further about T.– only you must leave him in the Lord's hands, and your extremity will be God's opportunity. — Neither can you do any thing for ~~the~~ [you]r children till he is taken away. There is trouble and care with children when they are young; but frequently more when they are grown up. It is not so easy to train up children to one's own mind as some imagine. As they are chiefly under the ~~care of the~~ care of the mother in their early years, she ought to have great sense, great piety, and very great resolution. As no state is exempt from trials, perhaps our Bro.s are just as well in their present situation, as they would have been in any other, and perhaps they will see hereafter, at least in Eternity, how their trials worked together for their good. God has a great deal of trouble with us (so to speak) to cut us off from the creatures, that we may centre in himself; and he uses many methods with us to bring about this end. I trust he has taught me some more of this lesson of late, tho' I have been slow in learning. And here I may ~~the~~ observe what a difference there is between knowing by theory, and knowing by experience. Theory indeed is good, but nothing like experience. The acct. of Mr. J.–'s Death was shocking indeed, but it was what his family expected every day for many years. I think I have sometimes felt something like what you mention of the awful view of Death; I don't remember to have felt it of late, tho' I like to read of Death, and am fond that others should talk often to me about it. And tho' I am much conversant about it and visiting those that are going off the stage, yet I find there is nothing so difficult as to bring it to a near view. Some however have made themselves too uneasy in this respect, not so much with the fear of torment, as with fear of the pain of dieing. An instance of this happened here last summer. A pious clergyman who had always had this fear of Death, was taken ill in the Pulpit, carried into his house and died of an Appoplexy; so that it happened better to him than his fear.

Men differ greatly in their constitutions and natural spirits, tho' they may be equal in piety: therefore we should be cautious in judging rashly, if they don't seem to feel exactly as we do. I believe God acquits many whom men condemn. Oh! what ignorant shortsighted creatures are we at best! we know but in part. We know but little of ourselves, little of the construction of our bodies, and less of the nature of our souls; little of the things around us, or of other men; little of the nature of Angels, and far less of God. Let these considerations serve to humble us in the dust. Yet little as we know in these respects, it is our duty to strive to know more, yea, all we can in useful knowledge; and we shall be learning more and more to all Eternity, the more men know, the more they are convinced how little they know; and it is a proof of men's ignorance, when they think they know a great deal. — This cough has reduced me as low as I was this time last year. To desire to live for the sake of our family, is rather selfish, tho' it is very natural; yet I dare not give way to that thought; but of late I have had some desire to stay a little longer to tell more of the loving kindness of the Lord, and encourage men to trust him and rely on his promises. I hope I am not deceiving myself in this respect; yet I know it would be far better for myself to be absent from the body and present with the Lord. — Mr Wesley means to travel Ireland this summer, but I know not whether he will be near you. As he had heard much about the work in Fermanagh I believe he desires much to be on the spot, that he may judge of it himself. I have this day been reading a Tract upon Xn Perfection, published about 20 years ago, which I had never seen, nor do I know the Author. It seems to me a sensible piece and his Argts just. In one place in answer to those who say we cannot attain it till Death, or a few minutes before it, and who quote those words "when the fruit is ripe, immediately he putteth in the sickle because the harvest is come;" — to strengthen their Argt. he has this remark, — "It is plain the fruit is not ripe so soon as the field is weeded, and the corn is full in the ear, and it is not cut down when it is full, but when it is ripe. So a Believer may be delivered from all sin, be full of love, of God, and of Christ, and yet not ripe for glory; for the Lord might have much for him to do and suffer after his being delivered from inbred sin, being now in a capacity of suffering with cheerfulness, and of doing his will diligently, and both with steadiness, and hereby bringing great glory to God. A soul then is ripe for glory, when the whole will of God is accomplished in him, by him, and upon him. Some indeed, whom the Lord might deliver from all sin, may not be called to do or to suffer afterwards, therefore having no more to do or to suffer, are ripe as soon as sin is destroy'd, and their souls filled with Love." — I designed that those General things worth remarking, which I have occasionally mentioned, should be communicated to the rest of my relations, and those of your acquaintances that you think fit, because every one may do something for the good of their neighbour and the glory of God. And you know the danger there is in hiding even one Talent. — God be merciful to us all! seeing the mere refraining from evil is not sufficient, except we are fruitful in good works, and even then, we must acknowledge we are unprofitable servants, and are cut off from all glorying in ourselves. The commandment is exceeding broad; but then we are encouraged on the other hand by that word, my grace is sufficient for you. You need not be surprized if you hear every post of my Death or some of my family; for, we may all say "in the midst of life, we are in Death." But then Christians should look upon Death, not as a thing depriving us of something; but we should connect Eternity with all our views, all our actions, all our thoughts &c and this makes every thing sit easy upon the mind, I mean upon the mind of him who believes he is a child of God and he looks upon himself only as having his friends in one room and stepping into another, and by and by he returns, or rather they step in where he is, and there they post together to endless ages. — Farewel, then my friends, a little while, and I trust we shall meet to part no more! I have a degree of faith that I shall see most, if not all my near relations, standing in white rayment at the right hand of Jehovah. Amen!

J. L.

L. T. Jany 8th 1787. — Last night we renewd our Covenant here at the New chapel, which was crouded, there being, I suppose, near three thousand present for all came, that could conveniently, not only in the Town, but from the Country places around. It was a solemn time. I was exceeding happy all the day. Mr Wesley first sung and prayed, then he spoke of the rise and progress of Methodism from the year 1725 to the present time. He observed that it had been usual from the earliest times, not only for individuels, but for whole Churches, or societies at certain stated times professedly to devote themselves to God, vowing to be his obedient people, and to have him only for their God. He next spoke of the fall of Churches, as well as of Individuels. In the infant christian Church the love of money, or covetousness, as in the case of Annanias & Saphira, next Contentions or divisions among themselves, were the first causes of their fall; so it was among the Methodists. It has been his constant observation for 50 years, that in proportion as any one encreased in riches, so he decreased in religion; and then the divisions made by Mr Whitfield in separating from him, and others afterwards, was a great hinderance to the kingdom of Christ. — After this he repeated the words of the covenant (as it is in that one I sent you in the latter end of it) and all gave their assent silently; afterwards all partook of the Lord's supper, which was two hours in administering, six Clergymen attended; two delivered the bread, two followed them with the wine, the other two stood backward to fill out the Cups for us when they were empty. There were more than thirty Preachers, mostly local ones, present. — Mr Wesley when preaching on St Stephen's day on the subject of persecution, said, when God permits a Church or body of people to be persecuted, he does it for two ~~reasons~~ ends, first, to punish them for their apostacy, or lukewarmness; secondly to cure them of the disease.

The present Emperor of Germany is like to make great revolutions in Europe respecting religion. He has gone great lengths already for some years, tho' in a cool and gradual way, to lessen the Power of the Pope, the Princes of Europe and their subjects. It is said he purposes calling a general council, to which Divines will be invited from all the kingdoms of Europe, he and the King of Prussia in person, and Ambassadors from every Court will attend to keep the peace. It is probable if they agree in nothing else, they will at least lessen the Pope's power, and most of the Princes of Europe are inclined to this, besides the Pope's now are more moderate, or more prudent than their Predecessors. The Jesuists are already banished, from almost every Court, and 'tis said the Monks are going to be suppresst in most foreign Countries. So that I trust all things will work together for good, and that the day is fast approaching when all shall know the Lord, and when there shall be one flock under one Shepherd. Surely there is one who has the hearts of all men in his power, and is working in ways that we know not at present; he sees at one view all the springs and wheels in this great Machine, he sets them in motion, or controls them at his will. He uses men as Instruments in carrying on his designs, who perhaps do not know him experimentally. see what he says of the great Cyrus in the old Testament. —

My Dear Sister

London March 2d 1797

I have rec.d yours of the 19th of Feb.y in due course. There has been a great alteration in the state of my affairs since I wrote to you last. Surely, we know not what a day or one hour may bring forth; — The day of renewing our Covenant was, as I told you, a happy day with me. I found much of the presence of the Lord whilst I was dedicating myself and family to him in the afternoon before going out to Chapel, which continued all the evening, and even when in bed I could not refrain from singing with melody in my heart. It seems the Lord was preparing me for the trials which were at hand. One of my family is removed into the invisible world since, and perhaps some more may soon follow, or all before the close of this year. Soon after B—y was taken ill, I caught a cold and fever without any apparent cause. I used means, and was begining to be better the third day; but I was obliged to assist my wife and maid in attending the sick child, for she required us all, and as we were obliged to sit up most of the night, this threw me back, and fixed the cough so hard upon me that I am not likely to get rid of it. The Child was greatly convulsed and suffered a great deal, what distress'd me most was that she would take no means, nor even drink any thing. Two Doct.rs attended every day, but in vain, for tho' they pointed out the remedy, it could not be apply'd. The day before she died we thought her growing better; and very providentially we got that night's rest which strengthened us for the following dreadful scene. The last evening she eat often of roasted apples and jelly; which she threw up at one time in her last agonies. Whilst she wrought for eight hours in severe agonies, we felt what no tongue can express, sometimes in a kind of stupid silence, whilst we hung over her, and crying to God to cut short the work. During those eight hours I felt the presence of God in a remarkable manner, and that supported me. God does fulfill his promise that according as our day is so shall our strength be. And it is no matter how great, or what the nature of the trial be, if we have only strength proportioned to it. I found great thankfulness to God who took her away from the evil to come, and that she is lodged safe where no storms can reach her; and yet I found more sorrow than I thought I would ever find for a child; notwithstanding I had more buffeting with her than all the rest, being very selfwill'd. She had however many excellencies, & was wise above her years, and very careful of her mother, when these things recur to her mind, I guess how she feels, tho' she says little. She says she never had power to strike her in the same manner as the rest, as she never could look upon her as hers, but belonging to the Lord. They have reminded me now of a circumstance which I had forgot, or had given little attention to; that she said last year she used often to see the appearance of a little girl, and whenever she did, it affected her eyes, and sometimes she was ready to faint. I feel an expectation that my wife will be taken away. She is very low in spirits. I feel a desire sometimes, if it were consistant with the divine will, that she should be removed from an evil world before myself, for she would find such difficulties as she could not withstand; and she is liable to lowness of spirits, that she would then be incapable of using such presence of mind as might be necessary. She would patiently suffer a great deal without making her wants known; but it is sometimes necessary for us to use our reason, and every thing that God has put in our power in order to obtain what we need either in a temporal or spiritual sense. My children, as they are young, would not be so sensible of their loss of one, as if they were grown up. I don't feel anxious care about them, as I believe God will some way bring them thro' and if they are brought to Glory all is well. I have this week bought with some other old books, a Tract of which I had often heard, which is enough to make any sensible mind weep with joy, and encrease their confidence and reliance upon God to a wonderful degree. It was published by a Professor of Divinity in Saxony the King of Prussia's Dominions about the year 1700, shewing the steps by which he was led gradually first to give a little to the poor who came to his door, then to instruct them in the principles of religion,

I am glad to hear that you have got such lively Preachers on the Circ^t this year, I hope many souls will be profited, and make good use of the harvest-day to gather those fruit which God is so plentifully scattering around. — Surely God seems to be renewing the face of the Earth, and hastening his universal kingdom. There is a spirit of Toleration seems to gain ground over all Europe, which will pave the way for greater things. It is true, there is still enmity to God and his servants, in the hearts of the children of disobedience; but bloody Persecution is so stoped that it would seem as if satan was in some sense bound. — Yet we find many hinderances even from the Professors of religion, and whilst we continue to look at them, they prove stumbling blocks in our way. Oh! how many snares are there for our feet, whilst we travel thro' this wilderness! We have need of patience with others; but let us remember that they have need to exercise the same towards us. We are at best exceeding ignorent, and carry ~~about~~ our treasure in earthen vessels. Oh! for that love that hopeth all things, beareth all things! — Under such circumstances as you mention endeavour to look to God; who, I trust, will bring you thro' and not look at those trials. Surely we have all reason to trust him when we look back. What were we, or our Father's house? — As to our A—s conduct respecting J—s, it is one of those many things which we must endeavour not to look at, or to account for it as the effect of ignorence and prejudice. A thousand things of this kind we must leave till the day of accounts, when the righteous Judge will undoubtedly do right; and as he knows all circumstances, the degree of light that each had, and their designs in acting, perhaps he will acquit many, whom we would have been ready here to condemn. It is wonderful what effect prejudice has, prejudice either for or against a person; how it gives a bias to the mind, as well as the understanding. Man is a very unaccountable being to himself. Oh! how dark, how ignorent! And yet what an infinite variety, and infinite degrees are there in the human understanding! Some persons are but little removed from one species of brutes, and others rising nearly to the intelligence of Angels. It is observed by some fine writers that there seems to be a chain thro' all the works of Creation from the highest Arch angel down ~~thro' all the works of Creation from~~ to inanimate matter; one decreasing below another, and yet very little differing, so that all are linked together, and connected as by a chain. Yet it is certainly the duty of every being who has any degree of intelligence to use every means to improve its faculties, or talents committed to it; for it seems to have been the design of the Creator that every thing should be in an improving way, growing up into a higher state. In Doc^r Sherlock's Treatise on Death, which I have just been reading, he has the following conjectures. — "Adam himself in a state of innocence was but a probationer for immortality, which he forfeited: and it is probable had he continued innocent and exalted his nature by the practice of divine virtues, that he would not have lived always in this world, but have been translated into heaven. Since a reasonable nature is capable of greater improvements than to live always in this world, it became the divine goodness to make this world only a state of probation and discipline for the next, that those who by a long and constant practice of virtue had spiritualized their natures into a divine purity, might ascend into heaven, which is the centre of all intelligent Beings. This seems to be the original intention of God in making man; and then this earthly life was from the begining a state of growth and improvement, to make us fit for heaven, though without dying." —

I do not see any thing absurd in this thought, but I cannot affirm any thing concerning it. It is certainly our duty now to improve and go forward, not only here, but hereafter; nay, Angels are encreasing in knowledge, as well

as growing more like the divine nature, and will do so to all Eternity; and if they did not as I have heard Mr Wesley lately say, they would certainly fall from God, and consequently from happiness, seeing that all the happiness of the creature consists in its union with the Creator. ——

Wherever your Son is placed, whether among pious persons or not, you must exercise faith and prayer concerning him; but it is certainly right for us to use every probable means besides, in order to their conversion. — In a Tract published last year by Nicholas Manners, wherein he differs from the generally received opinion concerning original Sin, in the end of it he speaks a good deal concerning children, and thinks that wrong habits and custom, bad example, not restraining them, and keeping them ignorant of evil, and an injudicious manner of religious instruction, rather gives their mind a wrong bias, than its natural depravity, or inherent infection; for he says, whatever was lost thro' the first Adam was recovered thro' the second Adam, as it appears from Rom: 5. 15. and following verses. Therefore he considers actual Sins rather as the fruit of a wrong use of a right state of mind restored to all men by the merit and Spirit of Christ. — That no man will perish for Adam's Sin, if he is not actually guilty himself, I have long held; and therefore all infants and Ideots go to heaven; and that we are put upon a better footing through Christ under the new covenant than under the first, I allow; and that if any one is faithful to that degree of grace or initial Salvation which he receives at his birth or conception thro' Christ's merits, God will bring him into greater light, as well as into a higher degree of holiness, I think it is also plain; yet still I am doubtful with respect to this last opinion of Mr Manners, concerning children, seeing it appears that they have a tendency to moral evil very early, independant of evil example, and any instruction. However, I suspend my judgment till I have greater light in this respect. —— Indeed our family are not fit to deal with the world, or even with a great part of the religious world. It is well then that there is another state, and that we are not always to be here in this evil world. —— If you happen to see or write to Mrs D—s give my love to her, and tell her to remember me to Mrs T. M. letting her know that I wrote only one letter to her, not knowing whether she should receive them. this I mention lest she should be offended at me, for she was only feebly holding by Christ when I left her, and I well know that a little thing has sometimes turned out of the way even those who thought themselves securely fixed upon the rock. I suppose from E—g—s representation of me, the sort of Meth—s in that country look upon me with horror. I cannot help it; but my work is with the Lord; and he knows what I suffered for their sakes, and that in many instances, when no eye but his saw it. I still mourn before God on their behalf, asking, will none of the seed sown ever spring up? Will none of the bread cast upon the waters be found, tho' it should be many days hence? shall I not hear of the conversion of some of them whilst I am in the land of the living? well. — let it suffice, if I meet them in glory! Oh! what sweet consolation does it bring to my mind at this moment to think, that whatever I did among them, however unskilful it might have been; yet it was done with the purest intention; and I'm sure God looks to the intention, and makes allowance for ignorance. ——

It rejoices my heart to hear of my relations at Phil.a — Oh! how was I affected with the view I had of them the last night I parted with them, seeing them still unawakened, and I about to leave them, perhaps for ever! I'm sure I prayed for them from the heart. Well, I trust our meeting will be a joyful one on Zion's hill. Give my love to them all, and let us pray for each other, that we may be steadfast and faithful unto death. ——

Farewell, my Sisters, continue to love one another, and the God of peace and love shall be with you. Amen! yours in the best of bonds J. C

But ... [illegible] ... amongst with ... In respect the numbers who are
of supposed to die every day I made a mistake. I once saw the calculations
(for it can be only supposition) and find it to be upwards of eighty one thousand
each day, so that near thirty Millions die yearly. —— I think the Leader
in C—r should deal tenderly with J. Daly untill he is convinced of the
nature and kinds or degrees of Sin. There are many things sin to one and not to ano-
ther. It is according to the light they have received and every one will be
judged according to the Talents committed to him. Persons are sanctified
in a sense the moment they are justified. Whilst they continue in their
first love, it is not easy to distinguish between this and sanctification
in some. And Mr. Wesley observed here last week that some have retain
-ed what is called a luminous faith for twenty years. He observed
that in general there is a second awakening discovering the corruptions of
the heart &c but he has met with some exceptions. He has also found
some that were sanctified and justified in a moment, and continued
so till their spirits returned to God. We cannot limit God to any ~~thing~~
particular way of working. Yet we may observe his general way.
The Leader may from time to time shew from Scripture what is sin, and
then look to God, which only can convince men of sin. There is no
state but admits of growth. Mr. Wesley observed last week, that he
believed if even the Arch Angels did not make a progression, advancing
still nearer and nearer to the Deity in knowlege and holiness, they would
fall from heaven; so there will be an increase in these things to all
Eternity. Bro.r W. & R. will have enough to exercise them as their familys
increase; but perhaps these things too will work together for their good.
Farewell till we meet. Hold fast what thou hast yours &c J. C

An Extract of a Letter of the Revd. Mr. Fletcher to Miss H:—

"You seem not to have a clear Idea of the happiness of the love of Jesus, or at
least of your privilige of loving him again: your dullness of privite prayer arises
from the want of a familier friendship with Jesus: to obviate which go to your
closet, as if you was going to meet the dearest friend you ever had; cast yourself
immediately at his feet, bemoan your coldness before Him, extol his love to you, &
let your heart break with a desire to love him, till it can actually melt with his
love; be importunate, and get your Lord to avenge you of your adversary, I mean your cold
heart. —— In order to get a mortified Spirit, get recollected. Recollection is a
dwelling with one's self, and being abstracted from creatures towards God: It
consists in silence, which cuts of superfluous words speaks of necessity, and
that for the Glory of God. Again, it consists in solitude, or a being wisely dis-
entangled from the world, a keeping quietly to one's business, or shutting the
door of one's senses; in an inward deep attention to Jesus's love, and in a con-
tinual care of entertaining holy thoughts, for fear of spiritual idleness.
Thro' the power of the spirit, let Recollection be steady even in the midst of hur-
rying business. Let it be calm, peaceable, and lasting. In order to this, beware
of engaging too deep and beyond necessity into outward things; of being captivated
or entangled in heart by any troublesome worldly desire or affection; of willfully
committing small faults. For want of recollection, prayer is useless, imagina-
tion and wandering prevail, the heart gets loose, and roves every where;
whereas we pass easily from recollection to delightful prayer again, without
recollection, we cannot ~~[illegible]~~ find out nor crush sin in its first risings; therefore it
will break out in every unmortified person. To this I might add, that without
recollection, we cannot know or deny ourselves to any purpose. In recollection,
let your mind act according to grace, and it will lead you to contemplate on Jesus

crucified, dying, rising, interceeding for you. Watch your senses. Suppress
your passions. Keep before God in respectful silence of heart. Watch and
follow the motions of grace, and feed on the promises. Take care to be more
taken with thoughts of God than yourself. Consider, how hardly recollection
is got sometimes, and how easily lost. Do not use much forced labour to raise
a particular frame. Do not fret, tire, nor grow impatient if you have no
comfort; but meekly acquiese and confess yourself unworthy of any, deter=
mining quietly to wait for the smiles of Jesus. We must forsake all, and die
to all by recollection; without which God's voice can't be heard in the
Soul. It is the only Alter on which to offer our Isaacs. It is instrumen=
tally a ladder (if I may so speak) to ascend unto God. It is the rendevous of
~~the~~ God and the soul. By it the soul gets to its centre; out of it it is restless.
Man's soul is the Temple of God: Recollection the Holy of Holies. As
the wicked by recollection find hell in their breasts, so faithful souls
find heaven. Without Recollection, all means of grace prove useless, or make
but a slight impression. It emties the soul, that God may fill it.
I give you these hints, not to set Christ aside, but that you may, according
to the light and power given, take the stone and place it upon the chief cor=
ner stone: Cement them with the blood of Jesus, "till the superstructure
in some measure answers the excellency of the foundation."

"Unwearied may I this pursue; Dauntless to the high prize aspire."

My Dear Sister

Having met with the foregoing at Bath, and being pleased
with it, I have transcribed it to fill up a part of my paper, and hope
it may be useful and acceptable to you. Mr Fletcher was so humble,
and wished to be "little and unknown," there can be little materials
collected concerning him. I doubt whether so holy a man has ap-
peared in these ages, or whether he has left any behind that comes near
him. His wife continues to live at Madely to cherish the seed that he
sowed, and to take care of the poor. The present Vicar, tho' unawakened,
gave her leave to choose a Curate; she accordingly got a young man or-
dained, who had traveled about in our Connexion. There was a good Example
left him, if he follows it.

How wonderfully have I been supported and brought thro' the last year,
hovering between life and death! This time last year I was confined to my bed,
and those that saw me thought I would not recover; yet, I see the begining of a
new year, and am full as well, as at any time since I came to England. I
take more care, and don't go out so much at night as I used to do, only there is
one place where I generally go once a fortnight and have to walk near three
miles, and the same back after preaching and administering the Sacrament.
It is administered every day at the new chapel during the twelve days of Christmas.

I am still in the state as when I wrote last. I feel at times much of the pre-
sence of God, but I look for a ~~further~~ fuller manifestation, and an abid-
ing sense of it. I suppose unbelief is the grand hinderance, and perhaps some
undiscovered thing which I have not given up wholly, or have not been en-
tirely stript of. I suppose it is often with many according to the proverbial ex-
pression — "The children are brought to the birth, and have not strength to bring
forth." — I had on that night that I mentioned to you, a few drops before the shower
(as we say) which were indeed, very sweet; and had I followed on with that intense
desire, I suppose I should have obtained what I sought. I still feel a desire, but
it is not so intense; nor is the thirst and hungering so great. Yet, upon selfexamina-
tion, I don't see that I am cleaving much to Earth, or to Creatures; but still I am
sure all the hinderance lies in me. May he that knoweth best what it is, take it
away at a stroke!

But the reason which weighs most with me is taken from natural philosophy & observation. It is observed that the children of those who marry into their own family's, and do it often, become more and more degenerate, or weak in their constitution and under standing; yea, so as to be little better than Idiots, if they, that is the Child. continue to do this for two or three generations. And observation from the productions of nature, and the conduct of farmers respecting their breeding of cattle, & seed of grain confirms this. As every letter I write to you now, I look upon as my last, I desire to mention every little observation that occurs to my mind. They are some of my sweetest moments when I thus converse with you and my other friends across seas and mountains. Blessed be God for the privelege! Oh! that we may always live in the spirit of sacrifice, and live as in eternity, following our once despised, but now exalted head! Then we may expect to meet at his feet to part no more, but to roll in the boundless Ocean of a glorious Eternity! Let us now get in, and live within the vail. The greater part, I fear, of the religious world are living at a distance from God. Perhaps they don't commit sin, or omit any duty, and yet they have not that union with the Deity which is their privelege. They don't study how far they may have a new nature even here 'tis true they will be imperfect as to their understanding and judgment as long as they are in the body, and in this respect they may err, yea must. 'Tis true also that some may set Christian perfection too high; but the greater part set it too low. What I have heard some speak of, and which I want to atain, and believe to be my privelege, is this, to find such a change that I may do the will of God from a principle of love, not merely from a principle of duty; yea, to find it as natural for me to do the will of God as it was formerly to do my own will. This seems to me to be implied in those expressions, to be made partakers of the divine nature, partakers of his holiness, to become one spirit with the Lord, to be one with Christ and Christ with us, to be one with the Father thro' the son, in some sense as the Father and the son are one; see John 17. 21 and following verses. And is this our privelege! shall such worms as we be united to the pure and holy God! Then come my Sisters, my friends, let us encourage each other, let us (as Mr Fletcher said to his wife) draw each other into God"! I suppose you have seen the account of his death.— A report prevails here, that some time since a woman in the parish where he lived saw a vision, or was in a transe, and saw Mr Fletcher very near to Christ, and he was so dazzling bright as human language cannot express. The account which I heard was imperfect, but this I am fully persuaded of, that he will shine, with superior and peculiar lustre to all Eternity. Oh! for a little of his spirit, the spirit of humble love, in which I believe he excelled all the the men in England, if not in Europe. We know God is no respecter of persons, yet he does bestow some peculiar blessings upon some persons, and upon some nations; yet this does not abate his universal love to all mankind. Oh! 'tis this love that will be the burden of the song to all Eternity; and this love imparted to man, is in man a part of the image of the Deity. It is a strong expression which Young uses in his night thoughts.— "Strive to be a God."— yet it is agreeable to scripture, something like what I have been just writing, or like that of growing up into Christ in all things. Blessed be God, my hopes grow stronger that all our family will be gathered into the fold, and that we shall all meet in the blessful mansions above, that not a hoof will be left in Egypt. They will undoubtedly meet with many tossings on this sea of troubles, and may expect some degree of tribulation; and seem sometimes to be nearly shipwrecked; but it is no matter in what manner, whether on planks, or on broken pieces of the ship so as they all at last do arrive safely in port, the haven where they would be. Farewell till then, hold fast that thou hast, and let no man take thy crown. Yours — J. C.

[illegible] dying [illegible] for you. Watch [illegible] July 22 [illegible] Supp[illegible]

My Dear Sister

I am thankful for your Letter. I have not time to answer it and fully as I wish as I am much hurried in preparing and getting some papers which I am to carry to Conference. — There may be a fault in the Preachers in not urging you forward to holiness and a conformity to Christ and not seeming to be imprest with a feeling of the necessity of it themselves; but you must strive not to look at this and a thousand other things. When we consider what a Be-ing Man is; we need not wonder that in our large Body there may be found some that offend, or are not zealous. As to trials in Temporals you have had your share of them, and you may expect still more of one kind or other; but he that has helped you hitherto will still deliver. Fear not. The name of Jehovah is a strong Tower, into which the righteous run and are safe. I well know you are not calculated for a Town and busi-ness: but there is no remedy. If you had a sufficiency to support, then a little place in the Country would suit best. In the mean time you must struggle a little longer; but endeavour not to give way to lowness of Spirits, for that will un-fit you for business. Encourage one another. Surely the time of your warfare will ding soon be over. There is indeed a something in our family not pleasing to the world and even to many Christians. It is natural to us, and we should strive to mend it as far as we can consisting with a good Conscience. The more we are secluded from the world, the worse we shall grow in this respect; & yet it requires great grace, wisdom and knowledge, that whilst we are in the world; we may not catch its spirit. I think you go too far in grieving about T. Look unto the Lord and leave the event to him, your prayers will be heard but perhaps they will not be answered till after you depart hence. Mr Char^s. Wesley dwells often upon this in publick. He seems to have great faith concern-ing his children, though at present there is no sign of an awakening on their minds. Some have run long, and run into great wickedness, and died hap-py at last. Many instances of this kind are recorded. This time two years I met with a book which pleased me greatly; an account of the Conversion of Count Struensee in Denmark, who was beheaded for high Treason and for having as tis said, debauched the Queen Matilda, sister to our King. He had been a professed Deist, and endeavoured to make others so too. His Parents were pious, and I think lived in some part of Germany. They wrestled with God for him and were heard. He went into Denmark, and from one step to another rose to be prime Minister, and governed both the King and the Kingdom. A judicious Clergyman, who visited him in prison and laboured in a wonderful manner to convince him, at last pre-vailed and has published the whole acc^t. — We should not despair of any one. The Lord's arm is not shortened. And his eyes run to and fro thro' the whole earth. The sinners cannot escape him, and he will leave nothing undone to save them. When temptations rush into your mind, such as that you mention, endeavour to put it by, or don't stand to reason. You well know the De-vil can quote Scripture, and it is sometimes not easy to discern between his suggestions and those of the Holy Spirit; because he is very plausible, and crafty. It will be well I believe to pause a little, and we will see what tendency that reasoning in our minds has, whether it will be good or bad in the end. I am confirmed in my opinion concerning the very great number that shall be saved. About a fortnight after I wrote that Letter to you, Mr Bo[illegible] burn an eminent Preacher from Bristol came here for a few weeks, and one night in preaching from them words Fear not little flock, he e[x]pressed the very things which I had in my mind; and observed that little

flock

My Dear Sister

Tho' I am still in this vale of tears, London Mar: 30th 1786
this last month than I was when I wrote last, yet I have been much worse
but not since, tho' I still go out some in the day I preached 7 or 8 times in febury
sunday, but I must endeavour to do something time and read the Prayers on more soon as Dr C goes out
of Town soon and Mr W—y is gone, the chief business fall's on Mr C D & Mr R—
and me to serve at our 2 large Chapels in the mornings. Indeed I don't see
for what end I am spared, for I seem of very little use to the publick: but as I was
not meet to mingle with the saints in light, God has in mercy spared me 'till
I have parted with something which perhaps I have not yet seen, and till he has
made me ready, good is his will let it be done! My cough is very bad, and after
all the means I use, can not get rid of it, or rather I renew it every two or three days, so
that it seems surprizing that I last so long, I don't like to confine myself entirely
as long as I am able to move, and because I go out a little the people don't think that I
am so bad as I am. Deaths are so frequent here, (and no wonder amidst such multitudes)
that they think almost as little about a person dying here, as among you they would
think of a chicken. As to Mr W, he has no feelings about these things. He wishes
to get as much work as he can out of his preachers, and when they are gone, there
is no more about them, only he enquires how they died. I have frequently gone into
houses to visit the sick, and found that he or she had died, and was in the Coffin in
the room or sometimes the kitchen, whilst the wife was doing the ordinary business
of the house, and perhaps no other person in the place. They generally let them
lie thus for a week in the Coffin, whose lid may be taken up and the Corpse
view'd by any person who happen to come in. But I have seen some in deep sor-
-row. However, upon the whole I think the Irish act more irrationally and ab-
-surdly than the English in this and many other respects. In some parts of Ire-
-land one death will set a great part of a parish idle for two or three days.
with much rediculous behaviour, and sometimes the farce ends with a riot,
horrid to think of.
And those who have resolution to act different from the general custom are
look'd upon with horror and detestation by their Ignorant neighbours. Oh!
what gross ignorance and superstition has covered the people! — Vast numbers
of the sick whom I have visited even since Christmas are now in Eternity! O how
awful is the thought! There are some persons so curious as to make a calculation
(upon supposition) of the number of Inhabitants on the whole Globe, and they suppose
I think, that about eight thousand of those, upon an average, die every day; that is,
near three millions in the year. What a company then will that be, when the genera-
-tions of six thousand years (or more if the earth continues) are gathered together! Even
the company of the saints will be innumerable (speaking after the maner of men.) — But
here I may mention a thought which has lately occurred to me partly from my own
-observations on reflections, and partly from that of others. When I consider the number
of infants or children that die, the many that escape, as we say with the skin of their teeth
the many of whom we have some hopes, (and I'm sure they are few of whom I have not some hopes)
the nations of heathens that are living or working righteousness, according to the light
of their dispensation, and the many Idiots that are in the world and many others but a little
degree removed from it; when I consider all these things and put them together, and remember
that he who judges will judge all in righteousness, I am persuaded that the number of those
who shall be saved, will greatly (I had almost said infinitely) surpass the numbers of those
who will perish. But tho' I think thus, I would be cautious in preaching it, lest some of
the wicked should take occasion to harden themselves in sin. Men are too ready to condemn
those who differ from their way of thinking, and especially young converts, but when we
come to be more acquainted with the world, and with other sects and denominations,
our hearts become more enlarged, and we are more charitable in our judgments.
However we are to go forward ourselves, and occupy or improve those talents com-
-mitted to our trust. I think the persons of the nicest feelings and the greatest sense
generally get thro' the world with the greatest difficulty. Their feelings being nice every
thing affects them; and they enter into reasonings more than they need, and frequently
puzzle themselves about things that they will never be able to comprehend

whilst clogged with dull matter here below, and things, which were designed by placed above their reach by their all-wise and merciful creator; whilst many simple souls go on and live by faith, and trust God with all they have, and all they are, and so calmly sail into the Port. Oh! what a blessed thing is faith! How many tossings, conflicts, and uneasy moments (comparatively speaking) does he escape, who moves by it! 'Tis true, experience brings us to this; for, after all our own wisdom, and contriving and ploding, and disappointments in this, that and the other thing, and every other prop is taken away, we are brought to sit down e'en contented, or obliged to trust God with our all; and this is what we should have done at first, and would have saved us a deal of trouble and cares. On the 19th of feb. I preached at the new Chapel when the greatest part of the Congregation had gone to hear Mr. W. at another Chapel, and left me mostly the simple souls from Micah 7.7. and it proved, as I afterwards learned, a time of peculiar blessings to many. The expounding of the former part of the Chapter was profitable, and tho' it speaks of times of very great degeneracy, yet I observed we might use the Text in times of affliction or any trial, & then I could speak from my own experience thro' the winter. I bless God, I do profit a little by afflictions, but not so much as I ought! Yet why do I say afflictions? They deserve not the name when I look at others. And indeed our best way is to always look at others that are worse than ourselves or below us, and not at those above us, for then we learn the blessed lesson of contentment. I thank God, I don't remember that ever I murmered at his dealings with me, for they have been all blessings, and they were intended by him as blessings. I am led every day more and more to trust him with my all. An instance of the goodness of God which happened as I was sealing my last letter to R. was this. I think I mentioned my straits before with respect to sending the children to school, where the schooling of the two would be little less than 30 L a year beside their cloathing. I was all my life affraid of contracting a debt without a probability of paying it, and whilst my wife and I were talking about it, seeing this would be almost the half of my salary; I at last said "do let us send them, tho' I know not where the money will come from, but we'll trust in Providence." On the day before mentioned when I was sealing the letter, a Gentleman's servant knocked at the door, delivered a letter to my maid and walked away; in it was enclosed a Bank Bill for ten Pounds from an unknown friend. This will help this half year, and we'll trust the same kind provider for the next. I would not have you not to grieve so much or despair about T. Religious parents sometimes err in restraining their children, before they are converted to God, and this has given them a dislike to religion ever after. They ought to be more frequent and fervant in prayer for them, and that w^d effect what correction would not; they must undoubtedly be corrected, but much wisdom is necessary in the manner of doing it. Yet after we have done our parts to the best of our knowledge, we ought to rest contented and wrestle with God for our children and leave the event to him. He, and he only can change the heart and subdue the will, and the fervent prayers of the parent will be heard sooner or later. Cast your care upon God concerning him; he has the hearts of all men in his power, and has done great things for our family, so we have no reason to doubt him now. It requires much wisdom to observe a proper medium with children. When they grow up they generally prove the greatest trials of all, when they are beyond our government. It's easy for some men to lay down rules in theory. —— I think I observed to you that I did not approve of near relations marrying, but I did not then assign my reasons. They were first suggested to me by a sensible Clergyman, and I am confirmed in them since by observation. There are three reasons, a religious, a philosophical and a political. As to the first, we don't contend for it, since it is generally allowed by Protestant Divines that Cousin Germans may marry, and not forbidden in the word of God; tho' still I look upon them as very little removed from Brothers and sister. The political reason weighs much with the people of the world, for they say it is wise policy to enlarge your connection

in the opinion of Mr W— and this only made her think more highly of herself than she ought to think; this I fear has been the case with many whom Mr W—y took any notice of, and tho' he intended to do them a kindness, yet it hurt them. Perhaps he will not be pleased with me, for taking my children from her, but I thought if I continued them there I would not do them justice. However I trust the Lord will stand by me in this difficulty as he has in many others. In the time of my sickness I was kept without any anxious care concerning my family; and yet I could not see before me; but the thought of what God has done for me and mine always bears me up, so that I dare not but trust him with every thing; for I know his hand is not shorten-ed. we are called to live by faith; and this is certainly the easiest, the safest, and the only way. Tho' sometimes I find a wish to see my friends in Ireland once more in the body; yet again I think perhaps it would only make our parting the more painful to each other of us. Let us then rest contented with the Dis-pensations of Providence, and in the joyful expectation of soon meeting to part no more.— "Thrice blessed bliss, inspiring hope."— &c. In my illness I found no fear nor condemnation, my mind was calm; but yet I seem-ed rather in a stupid frame, not so lively as I should, and as I wish to be both for my own sake and that of others; but since I have got out again I have had more joy and consolation. still I see there is a mighty work to be wrought in me be-fore I am fit to appear in the presence of God. In my sickness I had no in-timation whether it should be for life or for Death; I don't remember which way my wishes mostly inclined. Oh! that we may be always willing to be any thing just as it pleases God! It seems to be very difficult to bring Death so near to ourselves as it should, tho' we are conversing with it every day. I spend a good deal of my time in visiting sick beds, and see many scenes of poverty and misery. many die here of consumptions. yet tho' it is profitable to go to the house of mourning or sickness, the frequency of it tends to harden the mind, as what is very frequent strikes with less force I remem-ber when I first read the funeral service over a grave, I felt a kind of thrilling sensation thro' my whole frame as I never felt at the reading of it since. But still the reading of it is awful and Solemn. God does not willingly afflict the children of men, he intends it for our good whatever use they make of it. All the afflictions which he sends are in weight and measure. None have more than they need; tho' it is very natural with people to think that their own trials are the heaviest; but if we knew all the circumstances respecting others, it would tend to make us more contented and more thankful. And as I heard Mr Wesley once ~~say~~ remark, it is impossible for us to judge of the degree of grace which others have, except we knew all circumstances concerning them, their natural constitutions, their inward as well as outward trials, and the degree of light which they have; and all this can be known only by the Searcher of hearts. A retired situation was my natural desire as well as yours; but since we are called out of it contrary to our desire, let us rest contented. I believe you are now in the way of Providence, and therefore whatever your hand findeth to do, do it as unto the Lord, and do it with your might. It seems you could not remain in the country without an income; I hope the Lord will still make your way more clear. The trials from the world are nothing in comparison to those which we meet with from Professors, yea and from those that are not void of the love of GOD. We often prove a trial to them, because they don't know our circumstances, and trials. We have need of patience with one another. I have been more tried this winter ~~with~~ with thoughts about offences and stumbling blocks in the Me-thodists connection than ever before; and this has distressed my mind more than all my afflictions and other cares. when I see the conduct of great professors some of them act publickly as leaders or Speakers, different from their profession,

it staggers me that I know not what to think. I endeavour not to look at these things long, lest it should make me doubt of the reality of religion entirely. When I look at these things, I cannot but fear for the rising Generation. but then again, I think this is taking thought for the morrow. God will carry on his own work in the Earth, either with or without means. When the Church falls away in one part he raises up a people in another, and in a way unthought of by men. Don't hesitate to write to me often, and the more so as our time is so short, and let me know even the worst of what concerns my friends for I am prepared for any thing either good or bad. The school of afflictions and disapointments has been a good school to me all my life; and it would be bad if I could not now make some use of what I have learned there. Surely after all that we have suffered from afflictions and disapointments, from friends and Enemies, I believe there are few families that have so much reason to bless God as we have. Is there not at this time a prospect, a probability that we shall all be landed safe with those who sailed with the Saviour below and are now entered into rest? Oh! what a rapturous transporting thought! O what were we or our Father's house, that God should look upon us! — G. D was found guilty by those who tried him, but he still persists to deny it. He wrote to Mr. W-y, desiring to be permitted to preach as a local Preacher at his Brothers, but he did not confess his fault! — We may remember our Lords words — "Offences must come, but woe to that man, by whom they come." — Let us watch, and let all that are now standing take heed lest they fall. — W. S. is right to stand to what he said, if it be the truth: and we ought to be very cautious of saying any thing but what we know ourselves to be true; conjecture or appearances will not do: Many lies have spread among Methodists, by the story being told in various ways; and when the matter was tried, some had nothing to say at last, but — "I thought it was so, or I thought I heard it was so, or such like." The righteous seem sometimes as it were forsaken, and trampled upon even by their brethren; but again the Lord has appeared in their behalf, and lifted up their heads; but let these words be always impressed on our minds; — "He that walketh uprightly, walketh surely." — The just man indeed falleth into trials of various kinds, but he riseth up again. It gave me singular joy to hear that the work deepens in the people of Kilmore. I hope they will continue to walk simply and humbly before God; but O how many instances among Methodists of those who once were simple, humble, and vile in their own eyes, yet afterwards became proud, self-willed and overbearing, yea, ten times more the children of wrath than they were before. we need not be surprized at this, after we have studied well human nature, the allurements of the world, and the devices of Satan, who is not yet bound. —

Though I have gotten some strength, yet I have still a bad cough, and a wheesing in my chest at night. The time is fast approaching, when, I trust, I shall be freed from all these complaints, and sorrow and sighing shall be done away. — Come then let us help each other on our way by our fervent addresses to the throne of grace, where we shall always find help in the time of need. give our affectionate love to all our relations, and to all the sincere followers of Jesus. May the everlasting arms be over and around you all, till at last you arrive safe on Zion's shore, and there meet him who is your Brother in tribulation. —

J Creighton

P S The wives of two preachers died lately at Bristol one of them an old woman in a few hours sickness; but she was ready, the other Mrs B—n. her Husd is in grief unspeakable for the loss of her, and likely soon to follow her. He loved her too well and God in mercy took her. He had been told here at the time of Conference by an odd kind of Prophet (to whom I gave no acct) to beware of Idolatry, & to set his house in order.

with a flaming tongue and on the top of the outside is Satan standing in a dancing posture, triumphing over those that he has got within, in the hole or door of the dungeon leaning out is another evil spirit pulling in those who are dragged to him by the other evil spirit before mentioned who stand in the corner of the broad way before described. The evil Spirits are cloathed in black silk or stuff, but every thing else that I saw was straw sewed together and nicely scraped and cleansed, The Woman took up a considerable time in describing these things to us, the man was at the upper end of the room, beside his bed, and neither heard nor perceived us, being so busy and taken up with his work, nor does he speak to any one till they touch him, The Woman then led me to him, and put my hand into his, he looked into my palm, and immediately called me by a name which he has for all Preachers, and seemed pleased, shewing that kind of affection which we usually do at shaking hands and meeting with an old friend or acquaintance. He then referred me to the following Texts of Scripture nearly in the following order, for I could scarcely write down fast enough. Some of them were promises for me, some shewing what I was to do and preach, some relative to my experience, and some what he would do for me, that is to pray &c whilst we were looking in the Bible for the Texts, he would sometimes repeat them, tho' many verses together, exactly as if he was reading in the book, and would correct us if we went to the wrong verse, or read any thing wrong & would tell us such a verse did not belong to us (I say us, because he spoke to others after me whilst I was there) He often said to me — "Oh I am glad." — He also told ~~me~~ us he could not point us to any Text till it was immediately revealed, and that he was permitted to speak only in parables. He often spoke to me in some kind of language of his own that I could not understand, except that I guess'd a little at his meaning. He spoke to me a good deal as I thought with referrence to Philosophy, the Stars &c and told me that I was a Philosopher; and tho' he seemed not to disaprove of these things, and learning, yet as well as I could gather it from him he seemed to say as it were "how little do men know after all their researches!" and then seemed to point to the thing it chiefly concerned us to know. The first Text he pointed me to was Dan 12.3. Then immediately to Prov: 11.30. then said — "and you have won some" Then to Acts 5.20. then said "I now will tell you what you are to speak" and pointed me to Acts 4.12. then to the 145 Psalm 5.6. then to the 12 ver of the same Psal: then Micah 3.8 Then to Isaiah 61 1.2.3. Then to Math: 20.6. Malachai 2.6. then to 2 Tim. 2.15. — Then to Jerem: 1.8.17.19. — then to Ex: 4.12. then Deut: 33.27. then 2 Tim 2.3. then to 1 Tim 6.17. adding "you do do it, and I am glad." Then to 1 Tim: 4.6. Then to 2 Chron: 15.7. I believe it was then that he said — "There was something in the begining of your experience, you may read it at 1 Cor: 2 from the 1st to the 5 ver:" you may well suppose that I was wonderfully affected at reading these last words, and during the time he was pouring forth the texts and they were read, those who stood by were astonished, and I was overwhelmed with shame and humility together. Then he pointed me to John 11.22 then he said "now I will tell you what you must ask and it is written at Psalm 51.10.13" when I was about to take my leave of him he told me what he would do for me, and named Psal: 134. 3. Then I withdrew but staid whilst two others went to him; Then when I was coming away the woman desired me to bid him farewell. — He then pointed me to Titus 3. from the 1st to the 8 Ver: and his last charge to me was 2 Tim: 2. 1st to the 8 Ver: and desired me to come again.

He was for some years past at a work-house, which is a kind of poor house,

but has lately come to live at a private house. We had preaching at that house to the poor, but about a year ago, the Governor of it was turned out under pretence that he had not acted justly; and then also our preachers would not be admitted. then this man was very much displeased, saying "they have brought in dogs here, but they will not continue long" (The new master and his wife were Papists and the wife died in a month after she came to it.) He ordered himself to be conducted to the public Assembly of the Parish (somewhat like a Vestry) for he knew that there was to be such a meeting; and there he publickly denounced against them the most awful threatnings in the word of God if they did not bring back the word of God to that place. He said -- "they have taken away the children's bread; tho' I know my Father can, and will feed them without any means." —

It is certain we have no need of any revelations now beside the written word, and we ought to beware of giving heed to these things. I believe it would puzzle any person tho' prejudiced against him, to say that he is actuated by the Devil. That he is a very odd and extraordinary person is clear, and that he seems to have an immediate intercourse with the invisible world seems also pretty certain; but whether they are good or evil spirits from whom he seems to get his knowledge is not so clear. All he says has a good tendancy. I was once informed that he sometimes swore; that is not true, but he is sometimes in a great bustle and uneasiness as it were at some event which he seems to see ready to come to pass and then he will not be spoke to, and shews something like passion.
The woman who went with me is one of our Leaders an old woman, much tried in various respects. He pointed out many encouraging Texts to her, but he named Jonah 4. 3. to her, and told her that she had made that wish in the night in bed, and she says he named the hour, and with indignation he said "how dare you say so does not my Father know what is best for you" she confess'd to me that it was true, and none knew it on earth but herself. Then he pointed her to that Text Set thy house in order telling her that her time was not very long, but tho' he knew the time, he was not permitted to tell her. I am told he has been with the King and Queen privatly and said some sharp things to the King. — The Prince of Wales went to him in disguise, he spoke to him in the words of King Lemuel's Mother Prov: 31. He said to me in the words of Job, that he accepts no mans person &c &c. He told me what Christ would say to me at the end, repeating those words — thou hast been faithful over a few things &c. &c. — —

London Feb. 16. 1786

My Dear Sister your Letter of the 5th inst. was very acceptable to me, and the more so, because, amidst sickness and various other trials during a dreary winter, it seem'd as if my friends in I—d had almost forgotten me. I am still spared in this vale of tears, contrary to the expectation, & believe, of the Physician and others. I had been ill as I told you in my last from the begining of Novr. and often encreased my cold till after Christmas I was cast down and confined, for three weeks. I go out now and endeavour to do something tho' I have still a hard cough. The rest of my family are well except B.— tho' in some respects she is better yet her flesh is almost gone. I have been exceedingly exercised with respect to my two eldest daughters, and have brought them from the school where they were, as I think they have not improved this last year. So the Mistress was very high

strongly those words — let him that standeth take heed lest he fall. There is much against us in our way; but still there is more for us; therefore we need not fear, if we are watchful. Some will say, they were overtaken, as in a moment, when they fell: I don't believe this, I don't think that any real child of God falls immediatly into gross outward wickedness. I rather think there has been a gradual giving way to something displeasing to God, or often omitting private duties, which has shorn them of their strength or caused God in anger to leave them, and when he leaves us we must inevitably fall. I suppose this was the case with David. Oh! how needful is it to mark the first risings of desires. I heard Mr D—y twice or thrice within this half year mention in the Pulpit a saying of an old pious man to him many years ago. He mentioned it in Latin, the English of which is "Lust never dieth". — It is really of use to us to know the worst of human nature, or to view it in its blackest colours; then to look to the remedy; for bad as it is, there is a medicine which is quite sufficient, and let us be thankful; yet whilst we are looking to this medicine only to effect the cure, we are to use every other means which may conduce to that end. — I suppose you have seen before now Mrs Fletcher's account of her Husband's death, which I sent. Mr Wesley is writing a short account of his life; I believe he was the most holy and humble man upon earth, and has not left his equal in these respects behind. Mr W— has heard much from others relating their experience, and writing to him; &c so that in this respect he had the best opportunities of forming his judgment, and delivering the Doctrines clearly to others. Mr Fletcher, I believe, was possess'd of perfect love upwards of twenty years, and still encreasing in it and left a glorious testimony behind him in his triumphant Death. Oh! that we may follow him as he followed Christ! About the begining of my present Illness in the beginning of Novr I wrote a kind of Meditation consisting of 100 lines in blank verse, the first thing I ever attempted in that kind of verse. — This Foundary is an old dreary shattered building, notwithstanding they have been often repairing it even since we came here. it rains down almost in every room, and sometimes thro' two ceilings &c — In the begining of my Meditation I observe how like this old shattered Building is to my own shattered body; then I was led to reflect how the greatest Cities and Structures in the world have fallen down, among the rest Solomon's Temple, then I take notice of the Priests and Prophets of old how they are all gone, then the Preachers who stood within these walls and proclaimed free Salvation to the listening throng, then something relative to the resurrection, referring to Dan: 12. 3. and towards the end expressing some of my own hopes of having a house not made with hands &c I don't think it good enough to print, tho' it might be pleasing to my private acquaintances. Our friends either do not see, or overlook our faults; but our Enemies point them out to us, and are sometimes useful to us. I shall here give you about twenty of the last lines.

And is it so? — Shall I receive again? —
Shall every atom of this curious frame,
This Casket of the Soul, be gathered up,
And bear the glorious image, stamp divine?
It shall: — it must: — for my Redeemer lives —
He conquer'd Death: thro him I'll conquer too;
And in my flesh I shall behold my God.

Then blow ye winds; let rain
and hail descend:
Let Earth's foundation shake,
with all its Towers;
Its Cities great, its Towns,
and structures fair,
The work of ages, and the pride
of Kings:

This body too may crumble into dust,
Or lie forgotten in the silent tomb;
A house I have not built by mortal hands,
A mansion bright, eternal in the skies.
My tittle to it now I read by faith,
Which gives a clearer, more extensive view,
Than all the Tubes Astronomers can frame.
Yes, faith gives me to see that solid rock,
The ROCK of ages, which
shall me support
Amidst the thund'rings of an
angry GOD;
The wild, the dread dismay of
Infidels,
And all the horrid crash of
burning Worlds!

If these be the last lines you receive from me (as perhaps it may, for I am brought very low) then it will give you some comfort that I died in this faith, and in a hope of meeting you at the right hand of God in the morning of the resurrection. Tell all my friends that I charge them to be faithful unto death, and to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, and then they shall enter into his rest which is glorious.—. As Death approaches nearer I feel a greater desire to write both to my friends, and also some advice to my children; the moments I am writing to my friends or reading their letters are some of the sweetest in my life.— Farewell.—. J. C——

I insert the following account rather as a curiosity than any stress I would lay on it, yet it will serve to shew what strange things has been. But the word of God is a sufficient and the only true rule to guide us safe thro' every intricate maze or difficulty we have to pass thro' in the journey of Life.

London Octr 25th 1785.—— Yesterday I had an oppertunity of seeing that very odd man which I mentioned to you above a year ago. Being called to visit a sick woman who is in the same house where he is at present, I enquired after him, and was admitted with another of our friends, a woman who had often seen him to his appartment, which was fill'd with curious straw-work, in which he is constantly employ'd, representing many pieces of scripture history, such as the birth of Christ, lying in the manger, the wise men presenting their gifts, his last supper, and Judas dipping with him in the dish, the crucifixtion, and all the officers &c. The story of the rich man and Lazarus, the devil carrying one away tho' he offered to bribe him with a piece of gold whilst Angels are flying up with the other to heaven, the parable of the ten virgins, Jacob's Ladder, and many others. These are on the walls of the room, each in a kind of casement having a door, being about 10 inches by 12. every thing to be seen is all straw both within and without. In the middle of the floor stands upon pillars about a yard high, a kind of frame (all of straw) nearly in the shape of a Coffin, and on this is represented the resurrection, and day of Judgment at the lower end of this are many coffins opening, and some coming out of them at the upper end is the seat of Judgment or the Throne, on which is represented the Trinity, the Lamb with the Book, underneath the Throne are the twelve Apostles, and up on each side of the Throne are two Angels with Trumpets sounding, from the lower end where the coffins are up to the Throne are two ways divided by a partition, one of these is narrow and straight, at the upper end of which is represented one in a bold attitude who stands before the Throne, at the upper end of the other broader path in a door in a corner stands an evil spirit (scarcely to be perceived) ready to pull in any of those who come up that way, into his dungeon which lies behind; but there is a kind of opening left in the partition at the upper end of this broad way where they may even at the last escape to the Throne. Behind is Satan's dungeon, formed somewhat like a beehive with a hole in the side, thro' which when we look in is seen the rich man

accusation put in there against me to Day. I have no fear concerning the matter; for tho man should condemn me, yet I trust I shall be ac=quitted as to these matters in the great Day. But no reasonable man will condemn me till he hear what I have to say.— I doubt not but a certain person has helped E—h on, and embittered his mind against me, and in a manner for which he is so very clever. I pray God to give them true re-pentance for this and other things; and to see their error before it be too late. My two eldest children are at school about four miles off. I have no doubt but they will have their trials in Life; but no matter if they and I shall meet in a happy place. It seems plain by every Winter's sickness that I shall shortly be removed from them; but I trust my God will supply their tem=poral and spiritual wants. I hope if you survive me, that you will remind them what you thought my desire was they should be, that they should be adorn-ed with a meek and humble spirit &c &c. It is a great Lesson which, like St. Paul, we must learn, in whatever state we are, therewith to be content. Diffi=culties await us wherever we go, and I think our family is likely to meet with some, but we may be assured that God means to save us, if we will not hinder him, and chuse for ourselves. The Patients should leave it to the Physician to choose for them what he sees will conduce to their health, even tho' it should be bitter.— Let us all look to the strong for strength. Let us help each other by our frequent addresses to the Throne of Grace. Let us hold out a little longer and the warfare will be over. Oh! that we may be able to say with our latest breath— "I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith."— May the unction of the holy one be with you to teach you in all things necessary! May he guide you by his counsel, and afterwards receive you into glory!— Let us not think we are separated. We are not.— No— I trust that neither time nor place shall seperate our Spirits from each other nor from God, our common Centre. Oh! that we may cleave closer to that centre, and then we shall be safe! Oh! when shall the moment, the happy moment arrive when we shall see our Jesus as he is!— Farewel— Farewel— Farewel. I trust I'll meet you there. Yours in the best of Bonds —— J. C.

My Dear Sister Decr. 15th 1795.

Since the begining of Novr. (about which time I recd. yours of the 22 of Octr.) Myself and family have been much afflicted with sickness. I then caught a bad cold which has been often repeated and continues still. My Wife also has been ill. and after her B—y then the maid took a fever.— We know not what to do with B—y*: for she is so selfwill'd that she will take no medicine, nor any drink that she ought.—— She has given me more trouble than all the rest, by reason of her self-will and bad temper; and yet she is ex=ceeding sensible, she often uses astonishing expressions, and is too many in argument both for her Mother and ~~the [illegible]~~ maid. Some months ago, when her mother was reproving her for something, and said she was a bad girl, she replyd "indeed mama, you ought not to say so, was it not God that sent me to you? and sure he never sent any thing that is bad; and if you complain so, perhaps he'll take me to himself and send you a worse."

* a child about 6 years old. She died something above a year after this time.

About half a year ago, whilst I was writing, she happened to be near me diverting herself with something, at the same time she was repeating the Creed to herself. I happened to overhear her; and when she came to that part — "He sat down on the right hand of God" — she paused and repeated them words over again, and then said to herself — "Why, that's not right: how could God sit down on his own hand." The two oldest are at a distance from Town at school. A— is slow at learning her book, but seems to have a taste for needlework. She is very affectionate, and seems to have very fine feelings. Maria seems to learn every thing both at the book and the needle. &c Last summer (by the account her schoolmistress gave me) God convicted her of a lie in an uncommon manner, which she never was guilty of before. She had been taxed for doing some trifling thing, and inadvertantly denied it; and then (as she afterwards confessed) the Devil told her, as she had once said no, it was the best way to persevere in doing so, which she did; till after a considerable time she came to her Governess, pale as death, and clinging at her feet, entreated her to forgive her and she would tell her the whole truth, and also begged she would pray for her, for she was sure she must go to hell. I don't recollect how long she continued in that way; but I believe that night or the next day, she was rejoicing and said she was ready to die, and was sure she should be happy. She continued for some time more than ordenary serious (for she is naturally rather somewhat so and calm in temper.) but I don't know how it is with her now. It is remarked that those who are very early converted, seldom retain a sense of it long. I believe my children will meet with great straits in a temporal sense; but I have no anxious concern about them in that respect: and I have some hope that they and I shall meet in a happier Clime, and then all will be well. I am not devested of the feelings of nature, when I consider myself as just upon the point of being removed from them: but to some it might seem that I don't feel in that respect as much even as I should. When I recollect what God has done for me and my family both in a temporal and spiritual sense, I cannot but trust him with every thing.

I have more fears about my wife than my children. I believe she will be saved; but I fear she will bear my death very badly. She never could bear to let the thought come nigh her. Yet I think that the frequent thought of Death, both our own and that of our friends, makes it more familier; and then it has less terror when it comes. I have scarcely preached any for some time past, tho' I endeavoured to read prayers for Mr. Wesley frequently and was scarcely able to speak or to get thro'. — We are brought near now to the end of another year. This affords a subject for meditation and self-examination. Oh! what little progress have I made, tho' he has spared me this year also! It is very just he should cut down the cumberer of the ground. It has been a very trying season here with many for 6 or 8 weeks past. Vast numbers have died, and thousands just barely escaped. I have visited many of the sick, tho' I was scarcely able to walk myself. The work here is going on not with much outward appearance; but I hear, and I believe it is deepening in many souls; we hear a great account of the work in Dublin. But now and then in some place or other the Devil is counteracting, and something falls out to damp the work. I hear a disagreeable account of G— D—, of whom I had a good opinion when he set out. He is accused of sin, and is to be tried at Belfast on the 20 of this month. D— persists in denying it. This account was sent here to our Assistant by R— W—, who now travels at Coleraine. I suppose he will rejoice to have an opportunity of triumphing over D—, if it is true. — We need not wonder ~~at it~~ at these things, if we reflect a moment on human nature, the craft of the Devil, the deceitfulness of man's heart &c this reflection will still enforce more

My Dear Sister London Jany 27.th 1785

I rec.^d your Letter last night. you have reason to bless God that thus far he hath preserved you. I cannot see clearly yet how to advise you; but have strong hopes that God will lead you to some place where you may worship him according to your mind. The means of grace are highly to be prized; yet I would not have you be uneasy on that account, for God sees you and knows how you are circumstanced, and he will not call you to account for the non-improvement of that which was not in your power. He requires us to use what is now in our power, to live to him the present moment, and not to be anxious about the future. I would hope that God's withdrawing the candlestick from your neighbourhood was not owing to you. You have made one trial already about C—, and it seemed as if you were shut out there; now you may make another at R.— and if you can get a place there, I believe you may try it for a while. You have trials already, and I suppose you will have more; but perhaps we are called to bear more with our near kindred than with others. However you may count the cost, that wherever you go, difficulties and trials abide you; but don't be concerned about that, your strength will be as your day. He that has delivered, is still the same; his hand is not shortened. If you are disapointed of a place at R.— you must wait a little while and look for another, and so on till at last Providence points you to one. Don't let yourselves want the necessaries of Life, but trust the Lord, and he will certainly provide for you. Perhaps if you go to R.— you might strengthen each others hands in the Lord, as every one wants to be helped and stired up. There is something like the begining of a revival here; particularly with respect to the work of Sanctification. I bless God, he has encreased my thirsting after this for some time past, and I hope to be made partaker of it, I feel no anxious concern for to morrow; if I can but live the present moment as he would have. In this I am very deficient. I cannot get so much time to myself as I wish either for study or private exercise, I am often interrupted and called away to visit the sick and other Duties. I think my days will be few, so much the better if I then get to rest. I have lately given Mr Wesley a short account of my Life and experience which I suppose will appear in the Magazine for May and June. He means to go thro' Ireland this year, I suppose he will be in Dublin about the begining of April. We are much exposed to being robbed, and there never was such robbing in every way heard of. there was things taken out of the yard in day light, and this old building is not at all safe, but they have such instruments as to get into any house that they attempt. They broke into Mr Wesley's new house last Novr and robbed it &c. Oh! what need have we every moment to shelter our selves under the wings of the Almighty! Except the Lord keep City the watchman waketh but in vain. Bro.^r R. in his last letter said there was something which had been upon his mind for sometime which he seemed desirous to communicate but did not as he did not know whether I could be of any use to him in it. I supposed it to be something about Marriage, but I never thought of her. Perhaps it was ordered by Providence, and perhaps, every thing considered, it may turn out for the best, tho' if he had consulted me, I should rather been against it. I was always against Cousin-German's Marrying. Now that the affair is over we need say nothing about the matter. But let them take care of the world's getting a hold of them, and of their taking up their rest here— no, no, yonder is our Country beyond the grave the new Jerusalem. Let us move towards it, and help each other forward, at least by our prayers. "There all the ship's company meet." And Oh! may I meet all my friends there. farewel—

My Dear Sister London May 26th 1785

When I recd your Letter, I could give you no particular advice with respect to the T. in C and being much hurried with many other things I postponed writing. You must only make trial in that and many other respects looking still to the wise Counsellor. When we have laid our cause before him, and also consulted with friends, and yet still we have not clear light, we are to go according to the best light we have, and if our eye be single; then it will turn out for the better. A Cloud seems to accompany us our whole way thro this wilderness, an impenetrable cloud as to what is before us therefore we must live by faith, and walk as seeing him that is invisible. I can sympathize with you tho' I cannot help you. So can you with me, for I have not been altogether without my trials, and I expect more. Yes my sister, we may bless God for trials, they are all useful, and all necessary; and we may bless him that he has given us to feel each others cares. Whilst I write this, I feel tears running down which brings a sweetness with them that I would not be without them for rubies or Jewels. there is not a grain of grace imparted to us, but it will be tried over and over, and according as we advance towards Canaan, our trials will encrease; but no matter, if our strength be proportioned to our day. Trials from the world and from Enemies are great, but trials from professed friends are greater. But nothing strange has hitherto happened to any of us. Take care of the subtle Enemy; he has often parted those that were very friends. Listen not to his suggestions. Put the best construction you can on every thing. Every day gives us to see wonders upon wonders, so that we need not wonder at any thing, except that God bears so long with us. We are indeed a wonder to ourselves. — All last week from Whitsunday to Trinity sunday, was a time of sore inward conflicts with me chiefly about speaking in publick; I was scarcely kept from sinking in the deep waters. I spoke of it at a prayer meeting, or select band on friday evening, but all that any say to encourage me at these times when the great water floods come in upon me seem to have little effect. Sometimes I strive to hope again at hope. Indeed most commonly after these great conflicts, God seems to give some token for good, to encourage me lest I should be totally given up to dispair. On saturday night I was obliged to go at a very short warning to meet the people at the new Chapel, the Preacher who was appointed not having come home, this after what I had suffered all the week affected me in such a manner as I cannot describe; yet I went and the people seemed to be stirred up in more than a usual manner. On the next day, sunday, I had the whole business to do myself in the forenoon at the New Chapel, and several acknowledged to have received a peculiar blessing. To God be the Glory. And yet all this will not support me in a future trial; I shall be as it were shorn of my strength and ready to sink again. — I see all these exercises are necessary, to empty us of ourselves, and bring us to an entire dependence on the Almighty. Since yesterday evening I have been exercised with a trial of another kind. I find that some of those that once would almost have plucked out their eyes for me are now embittered against me, I expected this from what R. mentioned in his last Letter, concerning Sr Eh &c — — It occurs to my mind that this is the day that Mr Wesley is at Ballyconell. I fear there is much barrenness in that Circuit. But how difficult is it for Mr L— — to ~~know~~ come to the knowledge of the Truth? There is much flattery, and it is his part as a Christian, to put the best construction upon every thing. Perhaps there is a form-

every Day may convince us more and more of the necessity of watching lest we fall. Oh! what a weak creature is man! that part in man which is unrenewed is always warring against the Spirit, and bringing us into captivity to the law of Sin. so that we have need to agonize untill we are totally renewed in the spirit of our mind.— The resting in God is the only safe way, and if we should do this always, how easily should we pass thro' many difficulties, and scarcely feel them! We are apt to make ourselves uneasy by reasoning about the future and scoring ourselves about probabilities: whereas our way is to do conscientiously and according to the best knowledge we have that which we find to do, and then leave the Event to God, and he will so direct matters that all things will work together for our good. Oh! that we would give ourselves entirely to him to be disposed of as he sees best!—— As to myself I rest thankful and contented, The Lord Jesus is conquering for me, and trust he will subdue all things in me to himself. I see faith does great things; and therefore I am more and more inclined to assent to that saying of our Lord. "All things are possible to him that believeth."— may you and I fight, live, and conquer by faith, untill we meet at the feet of the Lamb.—— Yours &c J. C.

Jan.y 4 1785

I have been anxious for some time to hear how you are situated, & whether you have gotten a place yet. Your Situation in a temporal sense is distressing; but in a Spiritual sense much more so by reason of the dry and barren wilderness where you dwell. You seem to be somewhat circumstanced as David was in the 63 Psalm you often wish for the refreshing waters of the Sanctuary which you have tasted heretofore; yet still I trust that God is your God, and that he is with you, and that you still experimentally know that his presence make a Heaven any where. These trials for the present are not joyous but grievous, but let patience have its perfect work, and remember that God is your Father & your Friend, and that he intends, all this for your good in the end. The Physician must prescribe medicines which are often bitter to the taste, when he sees it is necessary for the Patient's recovery. Lay hold of these confident words of David in the above Psalm, My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness: and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips. Because thou hast been my help; therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. I have often thought that one of the best means of strengthening our faith is to look back and see what he has done for us, either in a temporal or Spiritual sense. Surely when we reflect a moment on what he has done for us we dare not but trust him. 'Tis true we are to follow the example of the Israelites, who cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he in his own good time delivered them out of their distress, brought them out of Egypt and from under Pharaoh. We are now brought thro' another year, and to the begining of a new one, What has God done for us the year that is past? I may say in some measure it has been with me in temporals as with the widow and her oil. We were often brought into great straits, but we never wanted. Some time ago, I visited a poor sick woman and found an inclination to give her a shilling, but then thought I have but three Shillings, and if I give one I shall have but two to support my family the week, and I know not when I shall get a supply. Then said in my mind, God has done great things already for me, and I will trust him in this also and gave her the shilling.

In about an hour afterwards I called to see another woman who put a guinea into my hand; so God paid with good interest, and I have experienced many instances of this kind since I came *here*. I mention these things to the honour of God because he will leave no person room to say, that God is in his debt, even with respect to temporals. Oh! that I was more greatful for the many favours which a God of love has conferred upon me!— Last sunday night we renewed our covenant. It was a solemn season. I suppose there were not less than two thousand in the Chapel. We concluded with the Sacrament. There were six Clergymen present. I see more and more need daily of watching even in the means and ordinances lest we should rest in them or suffer our thoughts or hearts to wander. Here especially there is the greatest need of this where there is such a multiplicity of means every day, and at the same time great bustling in the world. God, it is true, is able to keep us in all these things, and in all our ways; if we ~~truly~~ only look to him. I see it is the safest way to keep looking inward, that we may spy out our own defects; whereas when we are looking more at others, we see many things which will offend us and stagger or at least lessen our faith. We should think that others have need of patience to bear with us in ten thousand instances, and then we shall be more ready to bear with the infirmities of others.— We are called to be both active and passive; passive in receiving blessings, and receiving them as unmerited; and active as seeking them, and making a proper use of them when obtained. *The Lord waiteth to be gracious*. He *waiteth* upon poor worms; such is his condescension! And he *waits* to be *gracious*, to *bestow* favours, for all is of *free grace*; but then he waiteth upon them that *wait* ~~wait~~ upon him in his appointed means, and conveys his favours thro' those channels which he hath ordained.— In looking back to the last year, I believe upon the whole I have rather gone forward than backward, tho' the progress is but small. With respect to faith I think I have advanced; but in inward Holiness I have not made a proportional progress. I can trust God more, and rely more firmly on his promises, and I find this is the easiest way of getting thro' Life both with respect to temporals and spirituals. It is indeed the only easy way to leave all our concerns in his hands, and not to dare to take them out of his hands. I find my desires and resolutions of being devoted to God stronger; but I have to blame myself for not *now* laying hold of that which I believe to be my *present* privilege. I do not live from moment to moment in that collected and watchful spirit, and with that simple dependance on God thro' Christ, which is necessary to constitute a constant union with him, and a walking humbly with him; so that I must still cry— "every moment, Lord, I want the merit of thy death."— However, I will not let go my hold, I trust I shall yet be conqueror thro' Christ strengthening me.— I trust you have made some little progress since I left you, and that you do not grow faint in your minds; that you bear each others burdens, and when one seems to sink, the other lends a supporting hand. Surely two are better than one so that even here is a blessing. Then don't be discouraged, for God cannot fail. He *will* provide, yea, he *will* deliver. Say unto him, *Tho' thou shouldst slay me*, yet *will I trust in thee*. He is strong to deliver and good to redeem, the weakest believer that hangs upon him."

It is a doubt whether I shall see Ireland again; but if we meet in one region all will be well. J. C.

when this thought passed thro' my mind, I found some degree of Submission; but yet during the remainder of the service at the Sacrament I found myself strangely agitated and many thoughts passing thro' my mind. After the service was over, Mrs Hall sister to Mr Wesley came up to me as I expected to say something by way of reproof; but on the contrary said — "You gave us a good Sermon, I did not hear you before, I know your Master was with you." — I then told her my feelings, upon which she seemed surprized and endeavoured to encourage me. Yet, I was not satisfied the remainder of the week, and had thoughts of going to C. Wesley to tell him my feelings when it should be convenient, for he lives at the West End of the Town three miles from me. I spent two days in the Country and returned on Saterday very ill with a cold and sore throat; and to add to my distress found that I was to go the next morning to preach at West-street instead of Cha. Wesley who had been appointed for it that Day but sent word he was ill. I went much dejected and the more so as I was so ill. I preached; and afterwards several persons came to me to encourage me, saying that they, and they believed the greater part of the Congregation had found a remarkable blessing. Oh! how many ways does God teach us that we are nothing, and that the work is entirely his own, and that he works by what means he pleaseth, and in a manner that we know nothing of; that the whole glory may redound to him! But Oh! what an evil heart of unbelief have we! And how ready are we to assume something to our selves, and to rob him of his due! How true are those lines of Watts? — "Thy glories I abate, or praise thee with design; some of thy favours I forget, or think the merit mine." — I trust I have learned something, and shall learn more by these Lessons. But indeed it is hard to bring the Will into true Subjection, so as that we shall be willing to be any thing, or nothing, to be vile, and base, and despised, if he in whose hands we lie chuseth it should be so. — I trust upon the whole I have gained some knowledge since I came here. The Lord bears much with me notwithstanding all my unbelief. He is sometimes very present with me, but then I know this will not do, untill he abide in me and I in him, untill I am centered in him, and live in one habitual breathing unto him, and doing every thing to his glory. I see there is a great deal contained in that short sentence. — "The just shall live by faith." — All is obtained thro' faith; and all things are possible to him that believeth. Many religious People are apt to lean as it were or rest themselves on that degree of grace which they have attained; or they think they may lay up as it were a stock of grace to support them in their future conflicts with the Devil or any other Enemy, and they intend very sincerely to be adding to their stock. But Ah! this is not the way. They must come every moment by a fresh act of faith to Jesus Christ, as helpless, and as independant of any former attainments as when they were first justified. When we conquer the Devil this moment by an act of faith; he will renew the battle to morrow or in an hour hence, but in another quarter and after another manner, so that then we shall need to act faith afresh that we may gain fresh strength in the new Combat. thus then it is living and fighting by faith from moment to moment. It is perhaps for not attending to this consideration that many who were far advanced in grace have fallen from it. It may be they did not think it impossible they should fall; but they relied in some measure at least on the strength which they had attained. I have seen this more clearly of late, partly by my own reflections, and partly by conversation with others. So far from expecting to be free from trials here, we may expect ... will ... greater and greater

Therefore hold out faithful and all will end well! — One writes thus — "The spiritual man that lives by God, and in him, is contented in the midst of his Adversities, because the Cross and Affliction are his Life and delight. Tribulation is a great Treasure, wherewith God honours those that be his: Therefore evil men are necessary for those that are good; and so are the Devils themselves. who by afflicting us try to ruin us; but instead of doing us harm, they do us the greatest good imaginable. With the wind of Tribulation God seperates in the floor of the soul, the chaff from the corn. Hold it for a true Maxim, that no Body can do a grievance to a soul despised by itself, and that is nothing in its own account. Hope, Suffer, be silent, and patient: Let nothing affright thee All of it will have a time to end: God only is unchangeable: Patience brings every thing. He that hath God, hath all things; and he that hath him not, hath nothing: God brings his succours often so secretly that the soul seems to be without consolation or remedy: But if thou shouldst know how much thou art beloved, and defended by thy Lord, in the midst of thy Torments, thou wouldst find them so sweet, that it would be necessary God should work a miracle to let thee live. Be constant, be constant and of good courage; for thou wilt be protected, inriched, and beloved by that greatest Good, as if he had nothing else to do than to lead thee to perfection; and if thou dost not turn away but persevere constantly, without being off thy undertaking, know that thou offerest to God the most accepted Sacrifice: so that if the Lord were capable of pain, he would find no Ease 'till he has compleated thy happiness." —

I feel very sensibly for W— S. and his wife at this time, both with respect to the affair with Miss B, and also because R—t is to travel that Circuit this year. They will be at a loss to know how to act, and it is the wisdom from above alone that can direct them. Let them not give way too much to reasoning concerning the ways of Providence. Perhaps there may come good out of these things in the end. We see but very darkly at the present. We cannot help being grieved, but let us beware of giving way to a wrong Spirit. We are to suppose that we may be wrong and therefore we should endeavour to bear all things; and to hope the best; this will be our safest way with respect to our own happiness here and hereafter. Oh! they will have need to fly to the strong for strength, and to the wise for wisdom, and this I trust they will do, and that he will direct their way. On the rec.t of your letter I immediately wrote to D.r C to Conference a very keen Letter concerning W—t and protested against acknowledging him for a Minister of Christ. On his coming up here, last week, we had some conversation about him, but we could not agree in our sentiments about him. — Let us not be moved by these things. Let us be watchful over ourselves. Let us struggle to become one spirit with the Lord; for this we absolutely must be, seeing without holiness no man can see him. We must have the image of God re-instamped upon us: and let us look for it now. I bless his name he has put a desire after this into my heart and I trust he will satisfy that desire which he himself has given. I think I rest more contented in every thing, and endeavour to act as conscientiously as I can, and then leave the event to Providence. I have frequently hard buffetings from the Enemy, with respect to preaching; and all other temptations in comparison of this to me are as nothing. Many of the People do profess to have rec.d blessings, and endeavour to strengthen my hands; yet all this does not satisfy me in my own mind. R. Blake is here still; I don't know rightly what scheme he is upon: Some say he is going to join the Quakers & some — He has married an ungodly woman; and the pride of him and her is intolera—

the time was come for my leaving it, and then set out for this place, tho' when I ~~look~~ looked before me, and considered every thing, it was as contrary to flesh and blood, I verily think, as if I had been going to suffer at the stake. I now begin to think that all things considered I am as well here and perhaps better than I could be any where else. I have some prospect of working out my salvation, tho' I have a feeling sense of the Difficulties before me, I bless God I have had more of the comforts of his spirit for some time past than I had but this will not suffice, I want to have him abiding with me; I want to be lost in God. I have had some comfort and freedom in speaking to some of the simple poor people in the outlets and in the country places. But I do not like to preach in the new Chapel. but I must do it soon and it will be a heavy burthen to me. I have much fatigue walking to and from many places at a distance, and chiefly by night; by which I increase my cough. With respect to yourselves, there is one point which seems clear, that the time for your leaveing where you are is come, the next to be considered where you are to go. Upon the whole, use fervent prayer, desire to do the will of God, act with a single eye, cast all your care upon him who careth for you, do what seemeth best according to your present views of things, and God will assuredly provide a way for you. — If you could see Sister T. sometimes and cherish any good desires she may have gotten. We have reason indeed to thank God that he gives us good desires, but good desires will not do if we rest there. That other woman at L—ff has lain heavy upon my mind for many years. I had a great desire to have seen and spoken to her before I came away, but was so hurried. I spoke one word to her on the morning that our sister S—y was buried, which seemed to penetrate her inmost soul; surely we should not give her up, while there is life there is hope. But Oh! a long Eternity is approaching. God surely has been good to our worthless family. Oh! may none of us be wanting in that Day when ~~he~~ maketh up his jewels! May we all meet there to rejoice together, and Oh! what a meeting will that be! Let us help each other by our prayers that we may be found watching when Death comes or the Bridegroom appears. We find that word often repeated in Scripture, or something to the same purport — <u>watch</u>. Our Lord who knew well what was in man, and what Difficulties and Enemies he has to grapple with enjoins it often to his Followers. — Tell J. that I hope he is learning his book diligently, and especially learning to be good and obedient, and preparing for Death, as the fever is so near, and unless his heart and temper is changed he cannot get to Heaven. Give my love to W— J. I fear he stands a bad chance of being saved, especially now that the Gospel will be removed from that place: Oh! how many glorious opportunities have many had and neglected them! — As to Bro^r R—s situation it is very trying in many respects not being clear or determined &c &c. As to his preaching, I know not how to advise; it will undoubtedly be a heavy cross, and the heaviest he has to bear as long as he lives, I think all other crosses compared to it are but trifles. Perhaps it is best he is drawn into it as he cannot well go back. This was my case, I was brought to such a situation that I could neither go back nor forward; I was afraid to go either ways and that very thing kept me till the present moment. I expect to be grievously tempted in this [illegible] as long as I live. Indeed I am not for urging people much, because [illegible] many are running before they are sent; yet on the other hand, it is

dangerous to refuse if they are called. But Oh! to any of right feelings it is most awful consideration imaginable to stand up to speak to our fellow mortals in God's stead. May the wise Disposer of Events direct you to a place where you may be enabled to serve him without disturbance! And may he screen you under his protecting wings untill this indignation be over past! And Oh! it is but a moment. That is a cheering word. — and beyond that moment an Eternity of rest and joy remains. I believe you will not desert the standard in which you have enlisted; and that God whom you have hitherto served is able to deliver you, and to save you to the end. — Farewell — May Jesus be with you, and ever precious, and may he bring all things in you and me into obedience to himself, that we may be one spirit with the Lord! — What tho' seas and mountains divide our Bodies for the present, yet we are present in spirit, and I trust our Bodies also shall meet to part no more.

Yours &c J. C.

My Dr. Sister April 20th 1784

I received your Letter of the 20th of March, which gave me much comfort. It is certainly a very great blessing that we can, tho' so far separated in some measure communicate our thoughts and experiences to each other. I generally retire in secret about one oclock and believe I meet your spirit there, I am frequently melted down, and most commonly refreshed; but some days, especially Sundays, I cannot thus retire, at that hour as I am employed in publick or from home we begin the service on sunday at half past nine, and it is frequently one oclock or later before it is ended as the sacrament is administered every sunday, as also on those Holy Days for which there is an Epistle & Gospel in the prayer Book. In the City we have three large Chapels and three small ones, there is preaching three times every Sabboth in each of the large ones, and twice in each of the small ones. In the small ones we administer the sacrament on a week night, as we have not Clergymen enough to attend, except sometimes in the winter when Mr W—y & Dr C. are in Town, at present Mr C. Wesley does very little and is sometimes ill, Mr Smyth has been ill and confined since Jany: and the business chiefly lies upon me and Mr Richardson. There is various places of preaching besides these I have mentioned in and about Town and also in several places in the Country some at a distance where the Preachers go. I also go to some of these Country places on week days. My exercises last week both of body and mind was very great I shall give you a little account of them. On Easter Sunday I preached at each of the three large Chapels. At the new Chapel at five in the morning: at Spittlefields Chapel from half past nine to one went thro' the whole service preached and administered the sacrament, then returned home and dined then walked two miles & half to West street and at half past three began the service, preached, and afterwards met the Society. Tho' my bodily labours was great, yet my mind was pretty easy, and I had as much liberty as I usually have; but on Tuesday following when preaching in the forenoon at the new Chapel, I was in a most miserable way and all the remainder of the week. When coming down out of the Pulpit, a wish arose in my mind that they would stop me from preaching any more, and then I would be easy. To this immediately a thought occured, as if by way of answer to this purport — you were this moment preaching that we should give up our will to God, to be contented to be any thing that he pleases, therefore according to your own Doctrine, since God chuses that you should be despised, you should be willing to bear it. —

My chief concern is that I might be made some way useful. Preaching always was, and is still my greatest cross; as it is directly contrary to my nature to act at all in a publick Character. yet it is easier to preach to the people here than in many country Towns as an old Preacher informed me. At some times I think I will win my way some way or other, at other times cast down and full of fears; perhaps this is best, lest I should be puffed up and forget God. I have not preached much yet, and very little in the large Chapels. except sometimes at 5 in the morning, when there comes but few. How they will bear with me I cannot see, but some of them seem to have a favourable opinion of me. Before I removed from the Parish, I I believed it was the will of God, I should remove, and I don't know any thing to the contrary yet. I had no desire to remove out of Ireland if I knew how to act there, but not knowing what was best I took the advice of others, and I have still hopes that all things will turn out for the best. I find much comfort from the presence of God of late, but I long to be wholly swallowed up and lost in him. we have the Sacrement here every day now during the twelve days of Christmas. There is also a solemn entering into Covenant with God to be on new-year's Day or the Sunday after. I don't know how to advise you with respect to your situation and changing. It seems almost impossible that you can continue where you are; and yet there are as great difficulties in other places perhaps. &c &c — Oh! what poor short sighted creatures are we! — Well we know where to apply, and from whence your strength cometh; Let us apply there every moment; but it is well to ponder and take advice with man also. I trust you will continue to fight and wrestle; and most assuredly he that hath delivered, will deliver, and as he knows what is necessary and best for us, so he will see that we want no necessary good thing, if we are only found faithful. — yours in much love. — — J. C. —

Extract from a letter dated Feby 10th 1784

At present I am a good deal better, I have suffered a good deal since Christmas, tho' not so much as before. I bless God we all enjoy a degree of content and resignation, and I trust all things will work together for our good, I did not expect to be spared untill this time. But how gentle are God's corrections? they are indeed the chastisements of a Father. He is still giving me desires to be more Holy and yet I still lie far beneath my Priveleges. There is another young Clergyman, by name Collins, who has been here for three weeks, with whom the People are greatly taken, indeed his manner of preaching is very pleasing, and I believe he is a very pious man. He preaches occasionally among the Methodists, but, is not fixed any where. How matters will go when Mr Wesley is removed the wisest cannot tell, but all think there will be great Changes at his Death. —

I don't think (but I may be wrong) that the L——s here are so well [united] as they ought to be. There is no revival here at present, and some say there has not been much done since they left the old Foundery, but [we] hear of a revival in many other parts of the Kingdom. As to myself the people seem pretty friendly to me, and in general they seem to be a simple people, and will bear with a weak Preacher if they think him sincere. I am wading thro' Difficulties of every kind, and I expect I shall have enough of them as long as I live. It matters not if God supports me in them, and I have a degree of relyance that he will. Rest will be very desirable when we arrive at the Havan. Where that we may meet and all my other Relations is the hearty prayer of your affec.te Bro.r
J C

London March 15th 1784

When I rec.d your Letter I was greatly effected on many accounts, particularly when I heard of C——r B——n's Death. Oh! how alarming the thought of Death! How often does he come unexpectedly even to those who are serious and who are speaking of him! Oh! how difficult, is it to keep [our] mind always fixed upon Death, and our eye looking into the world of spirits. How dreadful is the thought:— The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.—

The more we consider both what passes within ourselves, and the actions and conduct of all around, even those who are reputed pious and serious, the more dreadful do we behold human Nature, and man in his fallen state. How widely his passions rove from the central point of happiness! How are his affections alienated from God, the supreme Good! Vain man, (saith Job's friend) would be wise; — would either find fault in the works of creation, or would [invent] and devise other ways and schemes for himself than God sees best for him and we may add with Paul, that God knows the thoughts even of the wise to [be] but vain. There are many devices in a man's heart; but the counsel of the Lord shall stand. I see it is a grand point to have the will given up to God, [an]d let him chuse for us. But Oh! how much of self still claves to us! Yet [ev]en with respect to giving up our will to GOD, it is needful to exert those faculties that God hath given to us, and to act as intelligent and rational Be[ings]. Both in Temporals and Spirituals, we are not to be so indolent or to [sit] still untill God works a miracle on our behalf. We are to think and act, [bu]t still in subordination to the will of God. Oh! what need of faith is there [in] every movement we make! Indeed the life of a Christian is taking every [th]ing with respect to the future upon trust. Abraham, when he was call[e]d to go into another place, went out not knowing whither he went.— C. W. [a]pply'd these words to me the first time he spoke to me.— But even with respect to faith, we must avoid Enthusiasm. We must act upon rational principles. There is one thing which will serve as a clue to go by in all the dark and intricate mazes, where we are bewildered — namely a single eye. After we have made any point a mater of frequent prayer, and that we cannot see clearly to what side we ought to go, let us do that which seemeth best, looking to God, and then I believe, he who knoweth whereof we are made will guide our steps aright, or at least he will so order matters, that they [shall] in the end work together for our good— I suffered much for three months last summer. I well know what it is to be in suspense. When we are once determined, then we are easy. Very shortly before I left [illegible]

[th]an a constant application of the Spirit to our soul, or a particular [manifes]tation of our acceptance? — He replied — "it is is only a particular manifestation when that work is adverted to, but it rather implies a [con]stant sense of our cleaving to God, and resting in him. and a person [ma]y advert to thousands of other objects, and attend to various kinds of [bu]siness, and yet not wander from God or lose that constant sense of our [cle]aving to him." He seemed to me by his expressions to signify that a [p]erson who is fill'd with the fulness of God can not continue much [lo]nger in the body. I said I supposed that was what Mr Fletcher [f]elt a little before his death, he said yes. — This man corresponds [wi]th Mrs Fletcher, he says she is the most sensible and most deep experienced of any woman he ever knew. She has published ano[th]er Letter addressed to her husbands brother in Switzarland, [gi]ving an account of his death to which is added her Letter to Mr Wesley, and some fragments found among her husbands papers; —
I thought I could not better fill my paper than with the above hints; as it will always be necessary for us first to understand our priviledges, and then, to struggle untill we are possessed of what we believe attainable. Ambition in this respect is truly laudable. And I think believers should frequently use to each other that word of Mr Fletcher to his wife — "let us draw each other unto God". — The babe in Christ may feel its soul in a peacable habitation, and may keep the commandments, and use every means of grace; but then it does these things because it is its bounden duty whilst at the same time it feels somthing within that seems to wish to be excused from this service; but the young man in Christ is strong, and has overcome the evil one (the evil nature) and then finds a rediness to do these things from a principle of love, or because it is natural now, as it were for them to do them. I find I am still but a babe; yet I am not contented to stay in such a state, and I have some hopes that I shall overcome. Lord hasten the time to me, and all my dear relatives!
I got a letter this week from Bro^r. H. He says he has been much exercised and tossed about in removing his family to H — that he fears he has come to as barren a place as that from whence he came. He will meet with crosses wherever he goes; but I ~~hope~~ trust you will endeavour to strengthen each others hands and frequently take sweet counsel together, and excite ambition in each other to grasp the prize set before you. Surly we may stand in silent wonder when we consider what a kind Providence has done for our worthless family. Oh! Let us strive to love him, serve and obey. There is no particular work of God here at present. There are many Spiritual Ministers here among all Demonations, and many popular ones not among us; but I think the whole Gospel is not so full explained among any people as amongst us. I don't wonder that the Calvinists have the greatest numbers, and most of the rich folks; because their doctrine is quite consistent with conformity to the world. They do not insist upon selfdenial, self-examination, and inward holiness, or the mind that was in Christ and therefore I do not see how they excel those who are outwardly moral, tho they do not sit under the Gospel sound. Have you done any thing respecting D. yet? — may the wise Counseller direct you in all things! Cast your care upon God; and be not anxiously concerned for tomorrow. My wife sends you a set of Spiritual cards, as a token of her love. She joins me in wishing you [illegible] of our friends [illegible] uninterrupted peace [illegible] you arrive [illegible]

and meet my Spirit every day at one oclock as near as you can. I trust we shall one day meet at the feet of the Lamb and there praise his name Thro' all Eternity. — I hope I shall profit much by conversing with some deeply experienced Christians. I must say that the people in general are very friendly to me, and Mr. Charles Wesley has been remarkably civil to me, and speaks well of the Irish and of the hospitality which he met with from them when he was among them for ten months at a time. yet he and his wife dropped some expressions as if they thought Doc.r Coke did not do so well to encourage me to come over, this they meant in pity to me. Mr Cha.s Wesley has great fears concerning the fall of the Church (that is Methodism) and some think he carries his fears too far. But his Brother John still puts the most favourable construction upon every thing, and especially of any little revival he hears of. He told me the other day he had heard lately from G: Brown and had some account of a revival near Clones. He preached lately at five in the morning on that Text Jer: 35. 19. — He said he had that Text upon his mind for twenty years past, but never ventured to preach it before. His application was to the Methodists, that they owed more to him than to any other man, and therefore they ought to observe all those Rules which he had given to them even if they had been of an indifferent nature, but more especially since they were agreeable to the written word. — He goes frequently out of Town for a week and sometimes longer. We have several preaching places in the Country, some five or six, some more miles from Town. I have been at some of them, I like to go into the Country. It is very beautiful, and the verdure of the fields at this season is astonishing. whatever my situation may be I am determined to hold to my purpose and take up my Cross; for I believe I am called to very great trials, I also mention these things to you as I said before, that you may know how to pray for me. May the God of peace and love be with you. Amen." ——————

Dec.r 27th 1785.

I rec.d your Letter in due time, which was a comfort to me. I have gone thro' a great deal of sickness since I came here, particularly since I wrote to you last. I am thank God, I am now much better. All things will surely work together for good, if we continue to love God. His chastenings are all for our profit, and are truly blessings in disguise, I have found my mind for the most part calm and easy since I came here I did not find any great anxiety or sollicitude for the morrow. But when Death stared me in the face I felt some, tho' not very great fear for my family. I gave them up to him that gave them a being, with some degree of relyance that he would provide some way for them. — I had always some sort of belief that I should not be in absolute want; but I wished to be in some measure independant, so as not to be a burthen to others. But now I see it is likely I will have to depend upon others; and perhaps this is best in order to humble me more.

Mr. Creighton continued in the same place afore mentioned 7 years where he was curate, and underwent great fatigue and hardships. the parish being about 20 miles in length most part of it barren and the people poor and very ignorent, after he experienced religion, he felt it his duty to visit them frequently at their houses and preach oftener in the week than had been formerly. He therefore built a chapel mostly at his own expence in the part of his ~~the~~ parish which was furtherest from the church and as the people were neither able or willing to attend in the church, he experienced much difficulties in labouring to instruct them people. yet he saw some fruit of his labours both in the parish and other parts of the country where he was invited to preach. this brought persecution upon him particularly from the clergy of the established church. —— After this he was invited by Mr. Wesley and Dr. C— to come over to London and help them &c for some time he hesitated to comply not being clear in it being his duty. But in the summer of 1783 he recd a pressing letter from Dr. C at Mr Wesleys request. to come there and added he should have work and wages. After consulting with some friends he took up his cross leaving his native land, and many of his dear friends and relations, and in Octr 1783 set out with his family for London. in some sense not knowing whither he went. but trusting in that God who he believed had called him. The following extracts are taken from his letters wrote from London for several years. the person to whom he wrote thinks it proper to preserve a small part, as other things being intermixed which was only interesting to a few. and that few may soon be call'd away by death, & the following few extracts shall be any way useful to those hands the may fall into tis all that is wished for. The following is taken from a letter dated Novr. 19th 1783 after mentioning some of his trials and difficulties concerning his situation he adds, I begin to be apprehensive my wife will not bear the trials well when they begin to grow heavier, as they are likely to do. As to my self I do not find them greater or even so great as I expected, for long before I left Ireland I fore saw that the greatest difficulties lay before me, let me go wheresoever I would.— Indeed my difficulties here with respect to temporals are likely to be much greater than I foresaw. Every necessary of life is so amazing dear here now that the people can scarcely live at all, except they have a great Income. &c &c Yet tho' I mention these things to you, I do not find any anxious trouble or fear for the morrow. nor do I feel a desire to be back in Ireland or in my former station. I hope I will improve here notwithstanding all my difficulties; and I still retain some hope that I shall some way or other get to the Haven of rest. And if that be the case, I shall look back on all my sufferings here, and confess that they were mere nothings or trifles. And when we look back and consider what we deserve, it serves to make us thankful that we are out of Hell. I bless God I find my heart more and more drawn out after him, and after a more perfect conformity to his image, and I am not without expectations of obtaining what I a[illegible] [illegible] your prayers;

here he mentions some things relative to temporal affairs belonging to
family. he adds.— Surely in this respect also the Lord has done wonder[s]
for you all, considering the bad state and confusion of my Father's affa[irs]
at the time of his death; I doubt not but you will husband well what [you]
you have, and yet not be anxious or fearful for the morrow. Trust God
with your all, only use the means and do your parts, and if your goods
should encrease set not your hearts upon them. but lay a little out
for the glory of God in proportion as you are able. I'm sure he will not b[e]
any man's debt, he pays good Interest even here.— Mr. Blair is we[ll]
in a letter rec.d from him this week, he says his wife has [...] run [...]
in the christian race, and he thinks she has lately been blessed with the [...]
of perfect love. Several others too, I believe, have received it on that [cir-]
cuit since he came on it; but there are some that oppose it.—

My Dear Sister London June 8th 178[.]

I just sit down to write you a few lines. my stat[e of]
health is rather better in some respects than it was the blister which I app[lied]
to my breast removed the pain which was there, and my cough is also [re-]
moved thro' means and the blessing of God. I am however very weak.
Still however we may expect to meet with something to exercise us wh[ile]
in the body; and they are all needful medicines for the recovery of ou[r]
spiritual health, the good Physician administers all he sees for our g[ood]
but often the patients are refractory and will not take what is intended [for]
their good. And as this becomes frequently fatal to the body, so much more s[o]
with respect to the soul. I hear the work of God prospers in several place[s]
in Ireland, and also in England. There is a work of sanctification
going on in some places on the Circuit where Mr. Blair is, yet he [is]
much exercised in his own soul, and wants more light and more love.
In his last letter he mentioned that the night before he had conversed
with a sensible man on the circ.t who said there must be three
special acts of faith, agreeing to the three different Orders of Christi-
ans, Children, young men, and fathers. The two former he has ex-
perienced, and is waiting for the third, which he calls being filled with
all the fulness of God; sanctified throughout body, soul and spirit.
This seems to agree to scripture. I lately conversed with a man on h[is]
sick bed who professed his being a young man in Christ for 24 years
past. He said he had been for 15 years before that in what is sometimes called a
justified state, or a babe; and tho' he was kept from actual sin, yet he
had such a warfare within as no language can describe. all hell seemed
[...] moved; that is, he felt every kind of evil, and the carnal mind so
powerful, that he was every moment ready to become a prey and born[e]
down by the torrents; yet he was kept, and barely kept; till at last he wa[s]
delivered that propensity to evil taken away, and the bias of his nature change[d].
I asked him how it was when this bias of nature is taken away or change[d]
and the soul cleansed from all unrighteousness, that it ever gives way to
sin again? He answered, it is generally thro' pride, or thinking too highly
of itself, or neglecting means, or being above being taught, or thro' unwatch-
fulness. Satan was a pure spirit, yet he gave way to pride. Adam had no
seeds of sin in him, when created, yet he yielded to the tempter, and com-
mitted it. I asked him a question relative to the errors and mistakes of
those who have obtained the pure love of God. He said, I have nothing to do
[...] things; I only advert to the grace or work of God wrought in me." Then
But now [...] however, tho' fullness of the love of God, and entirely devoted to him
this is be[...] an intercessor, [...]
[...] I [...] at the [...]

To the Memory of Sir John Mason.

Who, though but threescore and three years old at his death, yet flourished in the reigns of four Princes, viz Henry the Eight Edward the sixth, Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth: and was Privy-Counsellor to them all, and an eye-witness of the various revolutions and vicissitudes of those times, Towards his latter end, being on his death-bed, he called for his Clerk and Steward, and delivered himself in these terms:

"Lo! here have I lived to see five Princes, and have been a Privy-Counsellor to four of them, I have seen the most remarkable observables in foreign parts, and have been present at most state transactions for thirty years together. And I have learned this after so many years experience, that Seriousness is the greatest wisdom, Temperance the best physic, and a good Conscience the best estate. And were I to live again, I would change the court for a Cloister, my Privy-Counsellour's bustles for a Hermit's retirement, and the whole life I lived in the palace, for an hour's enjoyment of God in the chapel. All things else forsake besides my God, my duty, and my prayers!"

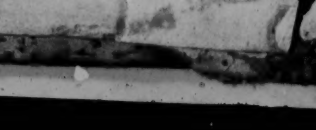
Creighton Earl of Erne in Ireland, Arms.

Quarterly, first and ~~3d~~ fourth argent, a lion rampant, azure. and 3d. argent, or, a chevron between three sprigs, as many boars heads, couped.

(Crest) On a wreath a dragons head, coup'd, vert, spouting fire. (Supporters) Two lions, azure, each crowned with an earls coronet, or, (Motto) God send grace.

The earl of Dumfries in Scotland is the head of the Creighton family, but the above is the earl of Earn arms. I believe it is on the same. In order to paint coats of arms, it is necessary to know something of heraldry. There are laws of arms and no one is to use that which belongs to another. I believe the supporters are only put to Noblemen's arms. A private Gentleman must have his with variation. Some choose a motto for themselves; but I choose to retain the motto above, because it is a good one.

Argent is a silver colour. Azure a fine blue inclining to purple. Vert is green. Or a gold colour. Rampant is when a beast of prey is reared on his hind legs in a fighting form. Couchant is lying on the belly with his head upright. Couped is cut off. A chevron is thus form



Extracts from the Revd J^s Creighton's letters to his Sister

"Decr 24th 1776. Being shortly after he experienced justifying grace, after mentioning things relating to his health, and temporal affairs, he adds. I am quite light and active and all my faculties are in their full power, my mind is very and composed, tho' I can not help being deeply distressed for those under my care especially when I am called upon to visit any of them at their taking their final leave of this world. On the 10th inst: I went to visit a poor dying sinner. After riding four miles, I was obliged to leave my horse at a Cabbin, then walk in my great coat and boots a mile farther thro bogs, drains and sloughs, then sail across a lough, where I arrived at the habitation, which for its wretchedness no tongue can describe. I had gone the same journey to the same man eight days before. He had lived in gayety and affluence formerly, and brought his miseries upon himself; he died that night. From the consideration of my own situation and especially the circumstance, which happened in Church the sunday before (as mentioned in a letter to Bro^r R.) you may have some faint Idea of my situation. Notwithstanding all this, I found myself supported with uncommon vigour in going thro the bogs &c, so that I could perform that which I could scarcely do at other times on a Summer's day, and in my full health."—

"I find by your letter, your case and mine has in many points been somewhat similar. I find that God has been gracious and kind to us in an extraordinary manner, therefore we have reason to be thankful to him more than many of others. I remember two years past I dreamed you were dead, and was in great affliction at it; but I find you were only then begining to live. A good many years ago, whilst I was reading some of Harvey's works I met that Text you mention (Mal: 4:2) which charmed me very much: I wrote it down with an intent of writing something on it some time. I often reflected upon it with pleasure.— It is this night, seventeen hundred and seventy six years since a Blessed Infant was laid in a manger for us. O! should not every human Being upon the Earth reflect upon this before they go to rest! And O! that I could transport this paper to you that you might read it before you go to sleep. But I doubt not you will yourself make the proper reflections for you have already got a taaste of that rest which remains for the people of God. Hold fast, then, that thou hast, and let no one take thy crown.

Let us remember that our light afflictions here which shall be but for a Moment. There will be no more sorrow, pain, or trouble when we shall arrive on Zion's Hill; where amidst that joyful and triumphant Choir, we shall sing Hallelujias to our great Redeemer to eternal Ages.— That you and I, together with all our Sinful Fellow men now upon the earth may meet there, and mix in the innumerable throng, is the hearty wish, and Sincere prayer, of your affectionate

Brother J. C.